Cannock & Rugeley
CHRONICLE

Thursday, April 20, 2017 | Read by more than 71,000 people | Price when sold 70p

RELIEF AS 90pc GET TOP CHOICE SCHOOL

BY JACK AVERTY

PARENTS in Cannock Chase are celebrating this week after the vast majority of their children were offered their first choice primary school.

Nine out of 10 parents in the district got the good news that their child had been given a place at their first choice primary school for the 2017-18 academic year, with only three per cent of applicants not being offered one of their top three preferred schools.

In total, 92.8 per cent of parents in Cannock Chase had their child offered a place at their first choice primary school, with 97 per cent offered a place at one of their top three preferred schools.

The remaining three per cent will have been offered a place at another school in the county, most likely in their catchment area.

However, the figures have declined compared with last year when 94.3 per cent were offered their first choice and 97.8 per cent one of their top three choices.

Staffordshire County Council, which processes school admissions, says it is tackling this decline by looking to build the new primary at Pye Green.

Overall, across the whole county, the council allocated 9,303 places for the 2017-18 – a place for every parent who applied.

Preferred

A total of 9,120 were given a place at their top three schools, with 8,630 receiving a place at their first choice.

The figures equate to 98 per cent who got one of their top three choices and 92.8 per cent who got their first choice.

The 183 children who were left without a place at their top three preferred schools will still have been allocated a school in the county, the council confirmed.

Helen Riley, deputy chief executive and director for communities and families at Staffordshire County Council, praised the hard work of the admission officers at the authority in making sure all the places have been allocated.

She said: "Thousands of parents have got the good news that they have been allocated one of their top three primary school choices.

"Our admissions team has been working hard since applications closed on January 15 to ensure all places have been allocated, and it helps that the majority of parents in the county put down three or more choices, increasing their chances of being allocated one of their preferred places."

The previous year, 9,278 places were allocated in Staffordshire, including 8,565 (92.3 per cent) who were allocated their first choice school and 9,110 (98 per cent) who were given a place at one of their top three preferred schools.

TOWN READY TO HONOUR MINING HERITAGE

Mike Mellor, left, of Chase Arts for Public Spaces, and Alan Pearson, chairman of Hednesford Town Council

IT started as an ambitious project more than a decade ago to recognise the miners who worked throughout the Cannock Chase area.

Now, after the latest batch of 500 inscribed bricks has been installed – bringing the total to 4,034 – the Hednesford Mining Memorial has been declared complete.

A service of dedication will be held on Saturday to mark the special occasion.

Mike Mellor, president of Chase Arts For Public Spaces, which is behind the project, said: "It was extremely important to recognise all of the people that worked in the Cannock Chase coal-mining area. At one time, there were 48 collieries – and the memorial covers all of them.

"And while their names may not be on it, it also recognised that in the early days, women and children went down the pits. We are satisfied we have got all of the names of the people on there who wanted one."

The service, which starts at 2pm, will be conducted by Rev Nigel McCulluch. Hundreds of people are set to attend, particularly the relatives of those who are listed on the memorial. Lea Hall Brass Band will be performing at 1.40pm, and Chase Male Orpheus Choir will also sing throughout the service.

Market Street will be closed to the public between midday and 4pm.

The bricks have been laid in alphabetical order along the diagonal paths leading up to the town centre clock in front of the Hedgeford Lodge pub.

A book called 'A Lasting Tribute' has been published for the service containing an insert which will be free for anyone who has purchased a brick. It can be collected from Unit 20 at The Lightworks, Hednesford.

ELECTION

A big chance to establish policies on Brexit – MPs

STAFFORDSHIRE MPs say the general election called for June 8 will give the Prime Minister an opportunity to establish a clear mandate on Britain's handling of Brexit.

Theresa May shocked many political analysts by announcing on Tuesday that she would put the Conservatives' policies on the EU situation to the test at the ballot box.

Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling said she supported the Prime Minister's actions.

"We need to ensure that we have a clear majority to get on with the business of Brexit and deliver on the will of the people," the Tory MP said.

"A good Conservative majority will give the Prime Minister the mandate she needs to go and get a good deal from the EU, ensuring it is not frustrated by other parties blocking or watering down our post-Brexit deal."

Lichfield Conservative MP Michael Fabricant said: "I think this has come out of the blue but I can understand why the PM has made this announcement.

"As a former senior whip, I know the current Chief Whip Gavin Williamson will have had a major input into the PM's decision.

"He will have said that to achieve all that she wishes to achieve, she needs a proper working majority.

"While you can take nothing for granted, this is what I hope she will achieve on June 8. This is an exciting time and will also have an impact on the Mayoral elections on May 4."

Mr Williamson, who is MP for South Staffordshire, said Mrs May's decision was made with 'a heavy heart' over fears that her lack of a mandate would weaken the UK's Brexit negotiating position.

He said victory in the June 8 election would put the Prime Minister 'in as strong a position as possible' to deliver Britain's exit from the EU.

Mr Williamson was one of a select group of MPs to take part in a series of discussions with the Prime Minister over the possibility of an early general election.

Stafford MP Jeremy Lefroy said: "I know she is a very serious lady, and this decision will not have been taken lightly but I fully back her. It is important the country has a chance to back her leadership."

INSIDE

RED LETTER DAY AT FIRE STATION

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Officers draw Tasers 1,100 times in year

Matthew Ellis – 'scrutiny'

TASERS were drawn more than 1,100 times in Staffordshire and the West Midlands last year and discharged 195 times.

Generally the number of times officers had to resort to using them fell in 2016 compared with the year before.

West Midlands Police drew them 852 times compared with 914 in 2015 while the number of discharges fell from 223 to 168. Staffordshire Police used them 305 times in 2016, firing them 27 times.

Comparatively the force drew them less in 2015 – 285 times – but discharged them on more occasions – 34. Chief Insp Danny Delaney of West Midlands Police said: "Tasers are not drawn lightly by officers. They are used where there is a risk of violence and provide an additional option to resolve situations that can arise from all sections of the public.

"Our officers have undergone detailed training, including scenario-based events to test judgement, accuracy and the procedural and legislative side of the equipment's use.

"The training has been developed by an experienced group of Taser instructors and practitioners and is subject to regular updates and review."

Staffordshire Police and Crime and Crime Commissioner Matthew Ellis said: "The latest Home Office statistics show that the use of Taser in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent has primarily been as a deterrent.

"The reports provided by Safer Neighbourhood Panels demonstrate their importance, and my aim continues to be to make policing in Staffordshire the most open and transparent in the country. Public confidence in policing is a priority, and this extra layer of scrutiny from Safer Neighbourhood Panels ensures transparency at the most local level."

Council defends its fees on tip rubbish

COUNTY council bosses are refusing to back down over the authority's waste charges, despite mounting pressure and concerns that the fees may be illegal.

Staffordshire County Council has started charging residents to dispose of certain non-household wastes such as soil, rubble, plasterboard and tyres.

The move has caused outcry with opposition councillors insistent that the county council is breaking the law.

It is argued that the waste the authority is charging for is DIY waste, which counts as household waste and in the Government's own words should 'legally be free of charge' to dispose of.

In light of this, Councillor Sue Woodward, leader of the Labour group on the county council, has called for the charges to be immediately suspended.

But the Conservative-run authority is standing its ground, insisting there has been no contact from the Government over the legality of its charges and that it believes they are 'reasonable'.

Campaigning

The storm has been reignited after the Government released its anti-littering strategy this month in which it states that it does not believe councils should be charging for the disposal of DIY waste.

Councillor Woodward said: "Labour has been standing up for local people, campaigning on this issue for some time.

"But in light of this government statement, Staffordshire County Council has serious questions to answer over the legality of the 'tip tax'.

"Surely the sensible thing to do, effective immediately, is to suspend the charge."

Darryl Eyers, the council's economy, infrastructure and skills boss, said: "The authority has not been contacted by government departments about this matter.

"Since 2011, increasing numbers of local authorities across the country have been charging for the disposal of non-household waste at household waste recycling centres.

"The authority took legal advice before the small charges were introduced, and we believe they are legal and reasonable and help us focus our resources where they're needed most."

Pete's image of an 'ordinary royal'

Pete Mason has designed this artwork made from stamps to celebrate the Queen's 91st birthday tomorrow

PETE Mason is the kind of artist who likes to put his own stamp on things – or in the case of his latest royal masterpiece, 30,000 of them.

He specialises in making one-of-a-kind eye-catching pictures made up of recycled postage stamps.

And the retired art teacher's latest creation is this 9ft square portrait of the Queen.

The image is made up of nine separate 3ft square canvases, which have been bolted together, and has been a labour of love for the past three months. He has used English, Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish stamps in tones of reds, greens and blues for the picture, which he designed to mark the Queen's 91st birthday on April 21. "There are 30,009 Queens," he said.

"There is no crown, there is no necklace, she doesn't look regal.

"She hasn't been Queen for nine decades, and I wanted to show that she's the Queen of the people and just an ordinary person underneath the crown. There is a lot of detail to look at, there are the different shapes and the names of all the towns where the stamps have been franked," said 72-year-old Pete, who lives in Hednesford.

For Her Majesty's 90th birthday, he depicted the royal on a Queen of Hearts playing card.

He has been making his giant pictures, with each stamp representing a pixel, for 20 years. Thousands of stamps are soaked, sorted and cut to shape before being pieced together for each image.

Views are sought on nature site near canal

RESIDENTS are being consulted on plans to create a nature reserve alongside the Wyrley & Essington Canal.

If approved, the Local Nature Reserve (LNR) will be created next to the canal in Wolverhampton and Walsall.

The consultation is being carried out by Wolverhampton and Walsall councils and the Canal & River Trust.

The proposed LNR will cover the Wyrley & Essington Canal corridor, stretching from Wolverhampton city centre to the edge of Walsall, taking in areas of adjoining land.

The three partners have said they are committed to jointly managing the LNR for wildlife, education and enjoyment purposes for at least 21 years.

It will be fully accessible to members of the public to use as a leisure facility.

Bosses are now seeking views and comments on the draft Local Nature Reserve Management Plan before progressing any further, and as many people as possible are being encouraged to have a say on what they would like to see included.

LNRs are typically owned and managed by the local council. This LNR is unique, as the majority is owned and managed by the Canal & River Trust, with areas of adjoining land owned and managed by the tow councils.

Further details of the scheme can be found at wolverhampton.gov.uk/article/10664/Black-Country-Wyrley-and-Essington-Canal-Local-Nature-Reserve-Consultation.

The deadline for comments is May 5.

City hit hardest in shop closures

WOLVERHAMPTON suffered the region's biggest reduction in high street shops last year, according to new figures.

In 2016, there were 38 closures in the city compared to 20 openings – a net reduction of 18 – amounting to a 7.38 per cent fall in high street outlets. It left the city with the highest numerical and percentage drop in the West Midlands.

Dudley, Kidderminster, Walsall and Bloxwich saw a net reduction in the total number of businesses of four, one, six and one respectively.

There was no change in Cannock or Stourbridge, while Halesowen and Lichfield both saw a net gain of one.

Stafford was the best performing area, with 17 openings compared to 13 closures. The research was conducted for accountancy firm PwC.

Teddy tea party helping women

A CHARITY tea party is being held in Cannock next month.

The Teddy Bears' Tea Party is being held at Create Church in Huntington on Sunday May 14 to raise money for Staffordshire Women's Aid.

The party will run from 2pm to 5pm.

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Campaign sees 4,500 care items returned

MORE than 4,500 items of community equipment no longer needed have been returned as part of a campaign.

The joint campaign asked people to return all NHS and local council loaned items if they no longer needed them, so they could be cleaned, recycled and reused. Items returned included supportive seating, specialist beds and mattresses, bathing aids, walking frames and sticks.

Ian Turner, head of commercial at Staffordshire County Council, said: "Each year, thousands of items are loaned to people free of charge to help them live independently or regain their independence after a time in hospital. But some of the items once they're not needed aren't handed back and end up in people's sheds, backrooms or in cupboards.

"We are trying to make it as easy as possible for people to return their items and it's great to see so many people coming forward.

"Just contact us and we'll arrange to have the items collected where they will be cleaned up and then passed on to help someone else."

People will also be able to return items directly to Medequip when they visit the Market Square in Stafford on Tuesday, April 18.

At the event, staff will be on hand to offer free walking aid checks and replace any rubber grips on the bottom of walking sticks free of charge.

The County Council and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) work with Medequip who provide the community equipment service.

Leader welcomes Freedom approval

CANNOCK Chase Council leader George Adamson has welcomed the news that his proposal to grant the Freedom of Cannock Chase district to the Cannock Chase branch of the Royal Air Force Association was agreed at the recent council meeting.

"Next year marks the centenary of the founding of the RAF," he said.

"It seems appropriate that we should mark the event by granting the honour of the Freedom of our district to the brave ex-service personnel who served in the RAF."

A similar honour was granted to the Mercian Regiment and the Staffordshire Regimental Association in 2012.

The awarding will be marked by a civic event in Hednesford that will include a church service and march.

Restaurant boost for cancer fund

ANAN'S Restaurant in Burntwood will once again hold an annual fundraiser in memory of Stephen Sutton.

It will take place on Thursday, May 11 with proceeds going to Teenage Cancer Trust.

Parents' fundraiser for baby support

Rare condition – Harry with his parents

THE parents of a nine-month-old boy with a rare bone condition are asking people to join them in an event to raise money for a charity that supports them.

Jason Titley, aged 45, and fiancée Emma Clay-Burley, 24, of Chadsmoor, are parents to little Harry, who was diagnosed with rare brittle bone condition osteogenesisimperfecta.

Only one in every 15,000 babies born are diagnosed with the condition. Harry's bones are so fragile that when he was born, he had a broken right leg, broken right arm and a broken rib from when he was in the womb. His left leg was then broken as he underwent an x-ray at hospital.

He had to wear a full leg cast on both legs and brace from when he was two days old until he was a month old.

Since then, he has undergone regular treatment at Birmingham's Children's Hospital.

The treatment sees Harry go to hospital for two days at a time and placed on a special drip to increase his bone density.

Jason said: "The Brittle Bone Society supports children worse than Harry to get wheelchairs and other equipment. That's why we wanted to do something, to raise awareness of the condition and raise funds so that other children going through the same thing can be helped."

Emma said: "The research that's going on, it's making such a difference to Harry's life and other children's lives ."

The event on Saturday at the Churchill Victoria club in Hednesford includes an auction and raffle. For more details, search 'Wishbone' on Facebook or just turn up on the night.

Dozens of new homes approved despite fears

PLANS to build 96 homes in Burntwood have moved a step closer as members of the town council raised no objections, despite concerns from people living in the town.

Burntwood Town Council's planning chiefs said they had no objection to the homes planned for the Mount Road industrial estate.

The council is happy that homes would be built on the old industrial estate rather than on green belt land. As well as the homes, applicant Clearwater Properties also wants to create a new access route for the site onto New Road.

Despite having no objections, town councillors did raise concerns over the size of the site and what kind of homes would be built there.

Planning chiefs felt the site could accommodate far more than 96 homes and also called on Lichfield District Council, which will make a final decision on the plans later this year, to ensure the majority of homes are one and two bedroom to meet demand.

A report prepared on behalf of Clearwater Properties states: "A mix of dwelling types and sizes will be provided to assist in providing choice within the local housing market and help create a sustainable, mixed community."

Opposition

Meanwhile, residents are to present 'alternative' plans to regenerate Burntwood which include a new health centre and dozens of new homes. The Burntwood Action Group will meet at St Matthews Social Club on Wednesday at 7.30pm to put forward its vision for the town.

It features redeveloping Sankey's Corner, releasing a nearby site for a health centre and affordable housing, and the housebuilding plans for the Mount Road industrial site.

The group has put together the plans in opposition to Lichfield District Council's Local Plan which they say earmarks greenbelt land for housing. Residents have been encouraged to attend, and representatives from the relevant councils have also been invited.

● Plans have been submitted to bulldoze six garage areas to create more than a dozen homes. Cannock Chase Council's proposals would create a total of 14 properties including some bungalows.

Six different applications have been submitted. The sites are at George Brealey Close, Rugeley; Wood View, Rugeley; Petersfield, Cannock; Cannock Wood Street, Cannock; Speedy Close, Cannock; and Cornhill, Cannock.

Residents, from left, Maureen March, Maureen Higginson, Lawrence McGowan, Adele Whitehouse, Sheila Burrow and Thelma Crook

Surprise treat for estate's residents

SURPRISE daffodils and chocolate greeted a group of residents in Huntington.

The treats were an unexpected gift from a church and were accompanied by an invitation to attend the Easter Sunday service.

Some householders had the gifts handed to them after answering a knock at the door while others, who were out at the time, found them lying on their doorsteps or attached to the door on their return.

The presents were delivered to everyone living on the Cavanswood Park estate, for the over-55s, by members of the Living Springs Community Church in Cannock.

Resident Lawrence McGowan said people were amazed and delighted, adding: "It was a really nice gesture. There's so much doom and gloom about, it's nice to know that there is still some humanity in the world.

"The estate is especially for older people. the eldest is 94, and they were all very appreciative."

The church holds services at the Avon Business and Leisure Centre in Avon Road, Cannock.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Optimism over rules on mobiles

A STAFFORDSHIRE Police boss says he is 'optimistic' that more severe punishment for drivers using mobile phones will lead to safer roads.

More than 160 motorists in the county were caught at the wheel with their phones in the first month after new rules were introduced. Penalties doubled from March 1 – being caught on a mobile while driving now carries a penalty of six points and a £200 fine.

Insp Matt Derrick, from the road crime team, said: "I remain optimistic that drivers will become more aware of the implications of their actions."

Study to probe neurology care

A STUDY aiming to reveal whether standards of neurology care in Staffordshire are up to scratch has been launched.

More than 200,000 people in the county are known to suffer from disorders such as Multiple Sclerosis, Motor Neuron Disease and Parkinsons.

Healthwatch Staffordshire is looking to measure the standard of services available to them against national guidelines. The watchdog wants anyone with experience of neurology care to take part.

Email Aarthi.ravi@ecstaffs.co.uk

New crackdown on car key burglaries

POLICE have launched a crackdown following dozens of car key burglaries.

The thieves are breaking into affluent homes, often by forcing a door, swiping the keys before making off in the car parked outside.

Thieves have targeted vehicles such as new sports editions of Audis, BMWs, Fords and VW models. Since January 1, there have been eight incidents in Stafford, eight in Cannock, seven in South Staffordshire and 19 in Lichfield including Burntwood.

Singers and bowlers in joint charity show

A CHARITY concert will be held in Great Wyrley on Friday, April 28.

The joint venture between Cannock Chase Orpheus Male Choir and Willenhall Trinity Bowls Club is in aid of Cancer Research UK. It is also a celebration for '101-years-young' chorister/bowler Cyril Hockham.

The concert at Great Wyrley Wesley Methodist Church in Walsall Road starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 each available on 01543 671934, 01543 684246 or 01902 602752.

Gintleman at tasting

WOLSELEY Wine Loft at Wolseley Bridge near Rugeley will host a gin tasting session with Carl 'The Gintleman' Hawkins on May 5. Loft owner Brenda Rhodes said: "Gin has exploded in popularity." Numbers are limited, so advance booking is essential. Email info@wolseleywineloft.co.uk

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COUNTY NEWS

Record-breaking start for airport

BIRMINGHAM Airport is celebrating a record-breaking start to spring after it handled tens of thousands of extra passengers last month.

New figures show 904,790 passengers passed through the airport in March, 73,000 more than in the same month in 2016, up by 8.9 per cent.

Both long and short haul services saw significant growth with long haul up by 8.3 per cent compared to the same month last year and short haul up by nine per cent. By the end of this year, it will have invested £450m on developing its infrastructure.

£1,000 donation for A&E charity

A PIONEERING accident and emergency charity with its HQ in Birmingham has received a £1,000 donation from a leading UK housebuilder to support its latest life-saving project.

Arrive Alive Response, which will provide first response vehicles to NHS services, hospices and air ambulance across the UK, has received the donation through Persimmon Homes Central Community Champions scheme, which gives away more than £700,000 across the UK each year. The charity has been leading the way with support programmes for almost 20 years.

DIY disasters costing £3,600

THE Midlands is the second most costly place for repairing DIY mistakes in the UK, according to new research. People in the Midlands pay more than £3,600 on repairing their DIY disasters.

Only Londoners pay more and it is people in their 20s and 30s who appear to be particularly keen to take on risky tasks usually left to professionals with 19 per cent tackling electrical wiring and 13 per cent brave enough to attempt a house extension.

Candidate backs bus payment trial

LABOUR'S mayoral candidate for the West Midlands, Siôn Simon has welcomed the introduction of contactless payment on buses as he reiterated his pledge to freeze fares for a year.

The bus operator has begun a trial of contactless payment on services between Birmingham and Solihull, which could extend into the Black Country if successful.

It means passengers may no longer have to check they have the correct change before boarding.

Business awards

THE Black Country Chamber of Commerce has launched its 2017 awards to find the region's best businesses.

The number of awards have been increased and the winners will be announced at an awards dinner on November 17 at Wolverhampton Racecourse. Visit www.blackcountrychamber.co.uk for details.

It's go slow for drivers as city is hit by a swathe of roadworks

WOLVERHAMPTON has been named as one of the slowest cities in the UK for drivers – with council chiefs accused of 'waging a war against motorists'.

Analysis by vehicle tracking firm Satrak ranked Wolverhampton fifth worst for the average driving speed, with motorists travelling at 14.79mph. It follows the announcement of an upcoming 18-month swathe of roadworks on the A449.

Conservative group leader Wendy Thompson has urged bosses to rethink proposals for the scheme between Junction 2 of the M54, at Fordhouses, and Springfield Lane. Bosses had described them as 'short-term pain for long-term gain'.

But Councillor Thompson has accused the authority's Labour leadership of clogging up routes into the city which are vital for both workers and shoppers and costing businesses cash.

Labour cabinet member Milkinder Jaspal said she was 'talking nonsense'.

Councillor Thompson added: "I can't believe the amount of roadworks that are going on. The amount of time some of them are taking is absolutely incredible. The cost for businesses must be enormous and the frustration for drivers as well.

Impression

"It is a war against motorists. We know roadworks need doing and development needs to take place. But all this work gives the impression of a lack of co-ordination and a lack of sympathy for motorists."

The aim of the newly-announced project is to improve access to i54, the Wolverhampton Business Park, and the Junction 2 employment area.

It is expected to be funded by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership 'Local Growth Fund'.

Earlier this month work began in Newhampton Road West, Wolverhampton, to replace more than 1km of iron gas mains.

Other works are ongoing further south on the Stafford Road, in Wolverhampton city centre on Pipers Row, and on the Birmingham New Road near Coseley.

Councillor Jaspal said: "Saying we are waging war against motorists is a load of rubbish. We're making constant improvements to the roads and a lot of roadworks are also being done by utility companies and they are urgent work that needs to be done."

Cambridge was ranked the slowest city in the UK in the figures, with average speeds of 13.73mph.

Potholes plague persists

TOP OF THE POTS

WE asked readers to help us highlight some of our worst pothole-plagued roads – and you did not let us down.

In fact, the problem seems to be worse than we feared with some shocking pictures of crumbling roads arriving from across the Black Country and Staffordshire.

And it would appear, from the reports we are getting, that the problem is particularly severe across Staffordshire.

Motorist Paul Gill sent us this picture of Hill Top in Hednesford where fresh road markings have simply been painted over the potholes!

He said: "The potholes around Hednesford are ridiculous particularly ALL around the islands at Hill Top (Hill Street/Uxbridge Street) but amazingly instead of them being filled they get the lines painted through them! You can see just how deep this hole is by the dip in the white line.

Riddled

Andrew Kennerley sent us pictures of Carlisle Road on the Longford Estate which has been flagged up before by readers. He said: "I must say the surface of the Wellington Drive end of the road is completely breaking up. I have tried reporting but when the council gets round to filling one, about three appear! It's one of the worst roads I know of in Cannock."

This road was also highlighted by Sandra McLeod. She said: "The whole length of the road is riddled with very bad potholes and you cannot swerve past them in your car as residents park on the road nearly the whole length down one side mainly."

Diane Clement was one of a number of readers who pointed out another stretch of road in Staffordshire which is a pothole hotspot – the A460 between the M6 Junction 11 and the M6 Toll slip road.

She said: "This is a very busy stretch of road where traffic is travelling at a high speed (unlike the urban potholes where cars are travelling below 30mph). There are several large areas of damage to the surface of the road.

"I often take this road to get to the toll road and find I have to pick my way. At the weekend coming south on this road it was dark and I could not avoid the potholes as I was travelling at about 40mph I went bang into one of them. I think I was lucky not to damage my suspension."

And don't think that the villages are immune. In Pattingham the High Street is covered in potholes as the pictures above show. But the problem is not restricted to Staffordshire. We have already had a number of crumbling roads flagged up to us in Wolverhampton, Bloxwich and Kingswinford and now Sid Clegg has highlighted problems in Halesowen.

He said the 'whole length of Richmond Street from Windsor School gate to the brow of the hill' has potholes.

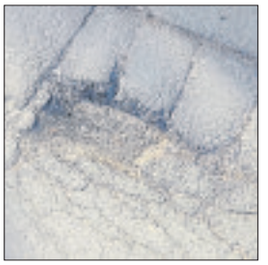
There may, however, be some relief on the way for Hednesford drivers with hopes of a road improvement scheme being carried out at Hill Top.

Hednesford and Rawnsley county councillor George Adamson said the county council had agreed to put the long-awaited road improvement scheme at Hill Top into this year's road improvements programme. The final programme is to be confirmed in the next few weeks. The scheme, at £225,000, includes resurfacing the junction and approximately 50 metres of the approaches to it. Councillor Adamson said: "Local people have been asking for this work to be done for a long time. ."

The Chronicle wants to identify the top 10 pothole blackspots in the region to flag up to our councils. If you know of any pothole-ridden routes or deep holes email details, preferably with a picture, your name and any comments you would like to make to Sue.Attwater@expressandstar.co.uk or drop us a line at Editorial, The Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Two examples of the poor state of Carlisle Road in Cannock

Paul Gill's picture of Hill Top



Here are just three of the many potholes in High Street, Pattingham and they have been there for a long time

CCTV move in attempt to thwart 'M6 gangs'

CCTV cameras could go up in a crime-plagued village battling against a surge in burglaries and fly-tipping.

There has been up to a crime a day during some months in Essington with fears that gangs from Manchester and Liverpool have been targeting the village, just off the M6.

Now the parish council says CCTV is a must and is willing to meet the £3,000 cost. However, it says it needs to meet with South Staffordshire Council to discuss the plan as it leases the cameras out and runs the system.

Councillor David Clifft, chairman of the parish council, said: "Essington has witnessed an upturn in breakins, car crime and fly-tipping, and the only option we have at our disposal is to install CCTV. The parish council is looking at mobile CCTV cameras, which can be moved around the village and in known hotspots.

"The scheme would cost around £3,000 and would be used in all five wards which make up the parish."

The parish council hopes to meet with the district council to discuss the plans. Latest figures show that 34 crimes took place in Essington in January, compared with 15 in December.

Councillor Peter Lever, who sits on Essington Parish Council and South Staffordshire Council, said: "Burglaries have been a problem for the village because of the location next to the motorway. Gangs from the likes of Liverpool and Manchester come down, and at the moment, there seems to be more local crime. I am all for the new CCTV."

Three wins in a row for Greg

THE 37th Les Evans Memorial Classic bowls tournament was won for a record third consecutive time by Greg Smith, who beat Darren Plenderleith 21-17 in a closely fought final.

Monday's event at Chadsmoor proved to be a 'great but emotional day', according to the organisers.

"The noticeable absence was Mel Evans MBE, who initiated the competition in memory of his father Les back in 1981 and has organised and run the previous 36 events," competition secretary Cliff Johnson said.

"Mel has been struck down with MND, diagnosed almost exactly a year ago. Even whilst suffering from this debilitating condition, Mel has still had a significant hand in the running of the 37th event, guiding us all with his wealth of experience."

Talk on York is after history society's AGM

CHESLYN Hay & District Local History Society is to hold its AGM on Thursday, April 27, starting at 7pm.

The meeting, at the Salem, in High Street, Cheslyn Hay, will be followed by a talk on The City of York by Peter Cadman. Admission is free.

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Warning on dangers of countryside fire attacks

STAFFORDSHIRE Fire and Rescue Service is warning people of the dangers of deliberately starting fires after a spate of blazes in the countryside.

The service has received 116 calls to outdoor fires since March 1.

Each of these fires were found to have been started deliberately, including an incident at Gentleshaw Common which saw crews repeatedly called to the same area.

The firefighters were at the common from Thursday, April 6 to Sunday, April 9 dealing with the incidents. At one point, there were four separate blazes on the same area of land, requiring 40 firefighters from Chase Terrace, Cannock and Penkridge to deal with them.

As there were several areas of the common alight, the service was not able to establish a specific cause but the fires are believed to be suspicious and Staffordshire Police have been informed.

Cannock crews were then called to a similar incident on Monday, April 10 at 6.47pm in Valley Road, Hednesford.

Prevention manager Carmel Warren said: "People need to realise that starting fires is not funny, or clever.

"It is actually very dangerous and puts lives at risk. Our crews attend these incidents far too often, and it is a significant impact on resources when there are people out there who genuinely need our help.

"The incident at Gentleshaw is a prime example of how our crews can be tied up for a considerable time."

'2017 start' on power station

WORK to tear down Rugeley's power station is set to begin this year, according to Cannock Chase Council.

The news comes as plans for a second access route to the site have been unveiled to make it easier to clear the site once demolition work starts.

The power station, which dominates Rugeley's skyline, has been left empty since it was closed down by owners Engie last June. No firm plans have been set yet for the future of the site but council leader Councillor George Adamson said demolition work should begin later this year once a contractor has been appointed.

Site owners Engie declined to comment on the issue.

The new access route, if approved, will be via the A513 Rugeley Road.

Playthings have a date at Woody's

CANNOCK punk and ska band Playthings will be playing at Woody's Music Bar in Hednesford this Saturday.

Support is from local band Cherry Bomb. Admission is free, and the first band will be on at 9pm.

New centre strengthens community links

George Adamson and Joannah Palmer

A SUPPORT centre for students and families has been officially opened at Staffordshire University Academy in Hednesford.

The ribbon was cut on the Chase View Support Centre by Councillor George Adamson.

Governors, representatives from local agencies and District Commissioners were also in attendance.

Chase View Support Centre offers opportunity for a range of agencies to meet and provide for students and their families.

Principal Rowena Hillier said: "I am really pleased at the journey our academy has come on in developing our links within the community. Chase View Support Centre allows for early intervention for our students and for the local community.

|"It is already proving to be a very positive addition to our academy and Jo Palmer, centre manager, is doing a fantastic job developing these links."

Councillor Adamson said: "I am delighted to be opening this centre for the academy and families in the local area. It has been a long time coming. When we first suggested a hub for multi-agencies to use, it was no surprise, given the level of commitment the academy shows to the local area, that Staffordshire University Academy volunteered."

The support centre manager also represents the academy in a number of initiatives, including Hednesford in Partnership and Dementia Friendly.

A range of agencies have engaged students and their families through the centre already, including Midlands Psychology, school nurses, Autism Outreach and Base 25. For more information call 01543 224671.

Farm blaze might burn into 2018 – fire bosses

A HUGE blaze which has been burning near Rugeley for months could still be alight into 2018.

The fire at Oak Tree Farm in Slitting Mill started on September 5, and fire service bosses say 'combustion' is continuing and is likely to do so into next year unless the site is cleared.

Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service has also announced that the final clean-up cost could be more than £1 million.

Tim Hyde, director of response with the fire service, said: "Following the application of the soil cap, the combustion continues, and regular site inspections are conducted by local crews using thermal imaging cameras.

"Temperatures recorded recently are in excess of 400C, which indicates that combustion is continuing. As the fuel degrades, it collapses from beneath the cap, causing fissures to open from which smoke issues again.

"In this case, SFRS and hired excavators have to return to the site to rebuild the cap.

"This process is likely to need to be repeated into 2018 unless the site is cleared."

Prohibits

The operators of the farm must foot the cost of the clean-up – and have been banned from moving materials onto the site.

A High Court injunction served on Dennis Ward and Steven Reeves-Morgan prohibits them from importing or processing material there.

Speaking about the cost of the clean-up so far and the eventual cost, Mr Hyde said: "To date, the service has spent around £30,000 in additional staff wages and £40,000 in hire costs, with the service being solely liable for these costs.

"Final clean-up costs for the site, which do not fall on the service, have been estimated to be in excess of £1 million."

In recent weeks, Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling has called for a debate on illegal waste disposal across Staffordshire in response to the fire.

Meanwhile, fire bosses have identified more than 50 'fire-risk' sites in the aftermath of the Slitting Mill blaze.

In a report compiled for a scrutiny and performance committee meeting, Mr Hyde said 54 sites in the county have been assessed in relation to the risk they pose of a similar incident taking place.

Funding bid for mother's cancer

Tracey Adcock is battling against a rare form of cancer

THE daughter of a Cannock teaching assistant battling a rare form of liver cancer that affects just one in five million people is crowdfunding to help her mother get access to private UK treatment not available on the NHS.

Chloe Avon, 22, has started a fundraising campaign to help pay for immunotherapy treatment costing between £80,000 and £100,000 in London for her mother Tracey Adcock.

Tracey, 45, a teaching assistant at Redhill Primary School in Cannock, was diagnosed with Fibrolamellar Hepatocellular Carcinoma in 2015 and after thinking she had beaten the disease following a liver re-section, she was given the devastating news it had come back and spread across her body.

She has undergone major surgery at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, Walsall Manor Hospital, RJAH Oswestry and New Cross Wolverhampton.

Now, Chloe has set up Tracey's Hope Fund on youcaring.com.

Chloe said: "The only thing she has left to access is immunotherapy treatment." Immunotherapy, also called biologic therapy, is a type of cancer treatment designed to boost the body's natural defenses to fight the disease.

To donate visit www.youcaring.com/traceysusan-792253

Chloe Avon, right, is raising funds for her mother Tracey

NEWS IN BRIEF

Learner's vehicle is seized on M6

A LEARNER driver had his car seized after driving on the M6 near Cannock.

He was pulled over by police at midday on Sunday. The driver of the black Volvo saloon told officers from the Central Motorway and Police Group (CMPG) he had a full Latvian licence but this proved not to be the case when it was checked.

Provisional licence holders can drive on all roads, except motorways, provided they are supervised by someone over the age of 21 qualified to drive that particular vehicle and have had a full driving licence for three years.

Good Fairy frees stuck cat Pugsy

A CAT that got stuck between two walls was freed by the RSPCA using a bottle of washing-up liquid.

The charity was contacted by Fiona McCracken of Hednesford Road, Cannock, who found the cat wedged in a 4in gap between her house and her next door neighbour's.

RSPCA officer Cara Gibbon said: "His claws were bleeding because he had been trying to claw his way out.

"We needed something slippy – and the first thing I thought of was washing-up liquid." It worked a treat and Pugsy was reunited with his owner.

Scouts share in £52k handout

A SCOUTS group in Lichfield has been handed a cash boost to pay for a range of new equipment.

The First Lichfield St Chad's Scout Group was presented with a share of £52,000 from Central England Co-operative's Community Dividend Fund, which was also given to another 25 groups and charities across the country.

To apply for funding in the future, visit communities.centralengland.coop

Hypnotist moves into new premises

A CANNOCH hypnotist has moved into new premises after working mobile for the past 12 years.

Steve Woods, director of Experiential Hypnosis Ltd, is now operating from the Regus office suites next to the Holiday Inn on Watling Street.

He says having a therapy room and office will enable him to offer a wider range of services, although he will continue to work mobile.

To book a free assessment, go to www.experiential-hypnosis.com

Ramblers' next outing

CHASE Ramblers' outing this Sunday is an eight and a half mile moderate walk from Penkridge. The meeting point as usual is Hednesford railway station car park, in Anglesey Street, for a 9am prompt departure. For further details contact Julie & Stan on 01543 459746. New walkers welcome.

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Now I have to apply for imaginary tax disc!

BENJAMIN Franklin famously said: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes," but even so, I was a bit surprised to get a reminder for my car tax last week.

The reason being that my car reached its 40th birthday in May last year, meaning it should be exempt from road tax.

The DVLA no longer provides a telephone number on the renewal form to help with these queries – nobody seems to want to talk over the phone any more, everything has to be online – but after a bit of perseverance I eventually found the number.

After a quarter of an hour on hold, somebody eventually explained that I would have to go into a Post Office with all the documents, apply for a new log book, and when it comes back I will then be able to apply for an imaginary tax disc which will be issued free of charge.

AND I thought the idea of computers was to cut bureaucracy.

❐❐❐

DO politicians ever learn? Exactly a year since the Government spent £9 million on leaflets telling us why we should vote to stay in the EU, they're at it again.

Last week glossy leaflets dropped through the letterbox telling us all about next month's election for a West Midlands mayor, or "Greater Birmingham" as they really see it, even if they won't say so. A battlebus is also touring the region, telling us why we should all turn out to vote.

Well , I'm sorry, but I will be making a point of not voting. As a dyed-in-the-wool Black Country mon I feel no affinity whatsoever with Birmingham, Coventry or Solihull. As far as I'm concerned, Birmingham – where the power will ultimately rest – is just as alien and remote as Westminster, and I'm heartily sick of the perception that anywhere between Warwick and Stoke is essentially a suburb of the second city.

Perhaps if the powers that be are really serious about devolving power to local communities, it might not be a bad idea asking them what they are before imposing it?

❐❐❐

A NEW study shows that parents in the West Midlands are prepared to pay a £52,000 premium to live close to a school with an "outstanding" Ofsted inspection.

PERHAPS that should not come as too much of a surprise. Most parents will want the best for their children, and you can't put a price on education, although I do wonder what happens to house prices when the schools are put into special measures a few years later.

What pupils need is a dollop of commitment

Jeremy Corbyn aims to to slap 20 per cent VAT on private-school fees

Victoria Coren Mitchell's fiendishly difficult quiz show has now been dis-connected

Jon Platt, the dad who dared to take his daughter to Florida in term time

Teaching is not a free portion of pie

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

NOT sure about Jeremy Corbyn's plan to slap 20 per cent VAT on private-school fees and use the money to provide free lunches for kids in the state sector. Some parents scrimp and save to send their children to independent schools and probably have less disposable income than the parents of the kids Corbyn wants to feed. In any case, the real factor in teaching children is not a free portion of shepherd's pie, but a dollop of commitment. The kids who do well at school, whether public or state, are the ones who come from families or cultures where education is seen as a great gift.

THE latest Supreme Court ruling says you can't take kids out of school for term-time holidays but you can remove them for "religious observance." I am delighted to launch The Church of the Blessed Walt. A strict requirement of this faith is a two-week pilgrimage each year, in term time, to The Sacred Towers of Eurodisney.

NOW that the judges have come down like a ton of wigs on Jon Platt, the dad who dared to take his daughter to Florida in term time, can we expect a similar crusade against those traveller and gipsy families whose kids drift in and out of education, racking up some of the worst literacy and health levels in the Western world? Thought not.

TERMS for our time. Until this week I had never heard of pop-up brothels. Apparently they are set up for a few days or weeks in houses or flats hired from unwitting landlords, sometimes under the Airbnb system. And you thought that lovely American lady was taking Bible classes?

ANYWAY, I dare say pop-up brothels serve a certain sector of society. But as the babyboomers grow older and the whole UK population ages, where are the pop-up chiropodists, the pop-up bingo parlours and the pop-up denture repairers? Knock three times and ask for Steradent.

A REPORT by the Police Superintendents' Association claims that 24-hour drinking, introduced by relaxing licensing laws in 2003, has led to a massive increase in alcohol-related crime in the early hours. Meanwhile, another report shows that throwing petrol on a fire does not extinguish it, and that bears, after a heavy meal, often head for forested areas.

GARDENER'S World has been extended to one hour on BBC2, swallowing the slot formerly held by Victoria Coren Mitchell's fiendishly difficult quiz show, Only Connect. After many weeks of being made to feel stupid in your own home, you will now be made to feel inadequate in your own garden.

AS you may have gathered, I firmly believe the population is divided not so much socially or politically but between two ancient and irreconcilable tribes: the optimists and the pessimists. So I am grateful to a new radio series, Glass Half Full (R4), for showing us that it is entirely possible for one clever doctor to be wildly optimistic about the future of personalised, gene-driven medicine, while the equally clever doctor next to him is deeply depressed about the coming global pandemic which will wipe out about one-fifth of humanity.

ORDER, order! The House of Lords has entered the row over television dramas with some peers complaining about 'mumbling' actors. Talk about pot and kettle. Have you ever watched and heard the House of Lords on telly? It is Mumbleland.

THE one thing everybody knows is that the Famous Five washed down their grub with 'lashings of ginger beer'. The truth, however, is that this classic phrase appears nowhere in Blyton's adventures.

FOR as long as I can remember, the experts have been predicting the return of the airship. How many times have we seen artists' impressions of giant silver slugs cruising over the clouds? Truth to report, I've only ever seen one in real life. Latest into the ring is an African-based company which is now promising to bring together US airship technology with vast reserves of helium gas in Tanzania. So that's blimps and squeaky voices.

IN the old days, airships were filled with highly inflammable hydrogen which produced some terrible disasters, notably the destruction of the Hindenburg at New Jersey in 1937. Helium is much safer. Helium is inert but hydrogen is ert. Very ert.

I'M not sure how the latest diesel-compensation scheme is expected to work. Encouraged by the Labour Government, millions of drivers bought diesel vehicles in the belief that they would save the planet from carbon dioxide. We are now told they kill 40,000 people a year through nitrogen dioxide pollution. Some cities are now proposing a 'toxins tax', to be paid by any diesel driver entering their patch. But Theresa May seems to be hinting that drivers may be offered financial help, but has not gone into any detail. The silliest possible solution, of course, would be for local council officials to tax motorists and Whitehall officials to hand the money back. So that couldn't happen...

TALKING POINT

The lowlife fly-tippers need to be binned off

FLY-TIPPERS are thoughtless neanderthals who must be pursued by the authorities with unrivalled vigour and forced to pay eye-wateringly high fines.

But I can't help wondering why fly-tipping is increasingly on such a rapid scale. It's becoming an epidemic.

How can there be so much rubbish dumped in these modern times when we are also supposed to be more environmentally aware, resolutely adhering to strict recycling rules, following our dogs around with plastic bags and reducing our carbon footprints to a toe prints?

Yet still our countryside and open spaces are being littered with everything from fridges, to mattresses with stonking big lorries pulling up and dumping their load.

Is there a Mr Big co-ordinating organised fly-tipping across the region? Or are there other factors which are leading the more moronic individuals in society to abandon legitimate means of waste disposal to dump their rubbish on any secluded spot of land they can find?

For example, the fact that many of our tips have had their opening hours reduced. Worryingly, there are discussions already under way to close sites in the Dudley and Wolverhampton boroughs to make way for new super tips. In Staffordshire, charges have recently been introduced at the tips for such items as tyres, soil and plasterboard.

On top of that collections are increasingly being reduced to fortnightly by councils, though we aren't getting bigger bins, and heaven forbid your wheelie bin should go walkabout because that is going to cost you!

Meanwhile we live in fear of bin-spectors who 'tag' our bins should a stray item appear in the wrong bin. I have had that walk of shame as I arrived home to see a red tag applied to my bin and the threatening letter warning that it will not be collected.

Thousands and thousands of pounds are spent by councils cleaning up after fly-tippers. How many staff hours must be cut or charges – £4.80 per tyre – collected for councils to come close to meeting these bills?

Clearly councils are not to blame for fly-tipping – that's down to the lowlife who think it is ok to litter our countryside with their unwanted tat - but the authorities are not helping and may well be making matters worse.

We law-abiding citizens pay our council tax and expect the tips to be open. We don't want to be hammered with additional charges. But we are losing out while our money is spent cleaning up after these lowlife.

Councils need to think how their cutbacks are adding to the problem. And it would be nice if the courts that deal with these mindless litterbugs hit them with breathtakingly high fines that could help meet the cost of keeping our tips open!

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Business stalls as day is added at market

TRADERS at Cannock Market welcomed customers on a Thursday for the first time since it moved to four-day opening as part of changes to re-invigorate the site.

The move put off some traders who had been there for decades but could not afford to pay an extra day's rent for their stalls.

As a result, the market is now nearly half-empty with only 34 stalls occupied out of 61 – a reduction of 14 open stalls in a matter of weeks.

But bosses have said customers – and traders – will see the fruits of investment within the next few months and hope new, younger stallholders will be encouraged to take a stall.

Assistant market officer Linda Shaw

Margaret Lavender – ever present

Empty stalls at Cannock Market, which is now opening for an extra day a week

Interest

An official launch will take place on May 19 by which time a new entrance – at the old Hallmark shop leading out onto Market Square – will have opened up featuring four new stalls.

Assistant market officer Linda Shaw said: "We are looking for new traders and young businesspeople, and the four days opening should help them maintain a healthy business.

"We have got some interest from people looking to come in.

"People have left but mainly due to retirement. They are in their 70s and 80s, and four days is just too much."

She added: "The new entrance will be really important, it will make the market a lot more visible. We just want people to realise what's here.

"We have got stores which sell items that you can't get anywhere else in the town. But it is also about the personal service you get in the market."

Trader Margaret Lavender, aged 75, who has been at the market since day one operating the Lavender's Underwear stall, said: "People have got to get used to us being open four days now.

"I have been here since it opened and I just love what I do. I really appreciate the customers I get."

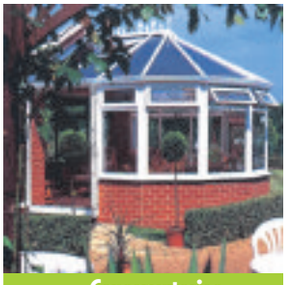
The market was quiet on the morning with only handfuls of people passing through as the Chronicle spoke to traders but business picked up on the afternoon.

Customer Gareth Sarginson, aged 29 from Cannock, was among those sceptical about the market's future.

He said: "I come here every day it's open. I think it needs to bring in more shops for young people. But it could also do with painting and a lot more money being spent on it."

Conservatory Tiled Roof

Windows and Doors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Run to work every morning, jog during your lunchbreaks or run laps around the park in the evenings; you decide the place and you decide the pace.

More than 30,000 people of all fitness levels took part in MyMarathon last year, raising over £1 million.

You can sign up to MyMarathon by visiting bhf.org.uk/mymarathon where you will find helpful tips.

DR MIKE KNAPTON
British Heart Foundation

Council should admit defeat over tip tax

WEST Sussex County Council has suspended its version of the tip tax following the release of the Government's litter strategy for England.

The Government has said: "Following the consultation on preventing 'backdoor' charging at household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) this can inconvenience residents and make disposing of their waste more difficult."

It went on to say that there is a long established practice of free access to local residents to deposit household waste at HWRCs. Despite this, Staffordshire County Council persists with its illegal charges.

West Sussex has admitted defeat and suspended the charges for DIY waste.

It should be scrapped immediately.

COUNCILLOR GEORGE ADAMSON
Hednesford & Rawnsley

Staff are superb in caring for relatives

I WRITE in response to the report on Chaseview Nursing Home and the headline that it could face closure (Chronicle, April 6).

We were saddened to read the very negative comments. As in all places, there will always be areas which require improvement but, in the opinion of a group us relatives, the dedication of the staff in caring for our relatives is superb.

The residents are clean, well-fed and cared for and above all happy. Looking after the residents is not a tick-box exercise, although this appears to be the priority for some, it is about about caring.

To go into the home and hear residents singing and laughing is a joy, and to see the staff attending to their every needs in a professional and caring way is what we all want.

We as a group are 100 per cent behind the staff and it would be an irresponsible and traumatic act to attempt to close the home down, when all are dedicated to continually improving standards, and above all the residents are happy.

I am sure constructive criticism is welcomed rather than a negative attitude. Keep up the good work, Chase View. We applaud your efforts.

MR RD JAMES
Burntwood

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk. If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Doughnuts make dough

NATIONAL Doughnut Week 2017, taking place between May 6 and 13, is fast approaching to help raise money for The Children's Trust, the UK's leading charity for children with brain injury. Each year, participating bakers and cafes donate money from the sales of doughnuts during the fundraising week. For further information, please visit www.thechildrenstrust.org.uk/doughnuts

PHIL TUFNELL
Ambassador, The Children's Trust

Betryal on military spending

SYCOPHANCY towards the United States rarely pays off in Britain's favour, and the special relationship has only worked in one direction for many years.

Both world wars were manipulated to the interests of the US, to the detriment of all others. For a century the US has sought to dominate the world politically, economically and militarily, in its own interests.

Trump was elected promising the days of America imposing its power on other countries were over.

He pledged a new, peaceful and prosperous beginning for Americans.

But he has already betrayed voters by declaring a huge increase in military spending.

His promise not to interfere in the Middle East is already worthless.

Under Trump, the military have much more influence, which can only place the world in greater peril.

KEVIN WILCOX
Hammerwich

Will there be any end to all this vandalism?

I READ with disgust the article about the needless vandalism on the play area at Coppy Nook park (April 6).

However, I have since witnessed something similar. I sat on the No 10 bus from Walsall and as it stopped at the Chasetown clock I looked out of the window towards the small park and bowling green. A number of young lads and girls aged about 14 rode and walked into the park.

The two girls and two lads sat on the bench with their phones out while the other two lads rode their bikes among the grass verges and onto the bowling green, performing wheelies and skidding their tyre imprints into the grass.

Why? Sadly I wasn't aware if the police station in Chasetown is manned, otherwise I would've informed them. Just another unnecessary act of vandalism. When will it stop?

DISGUSTED
Burntwood

Second thoughts about local councils' finances

HAVING been a long-standing campaigner for better care in this country, I have of late expressed a lot of sympathy for local authorities who are being starved of finances, by a very hard-nosed government, which, apart from other things, is having a serious adverse effect on the quality of care, within the county and country as a whole.

This sympathy, however, has begun to wane, having read that many of our local authorities are paying excessive salaries and that more than 13 of Staffordshire County Council officers earn in access of £100k pa and six more earn £150k, and heaven knows what other excessive pay scales exist.

A KYTE
Great Wyrley

Race night a winner for charity

Cannock Rotary

THE spring is an important time of the year for followers of steeplechase horse racing with The Cheltenham Festival in early March and The Aintree Grand National.

The Rotary Club of Cannock thought they should join by hosting something local and organised a 'Race Night' at The Barns restaurant.

Each race was sponsored and on the night Rotarians and their guests had the opportunity to be a racehorse owner, albeit only for the night by purchasing a race horse for just £5.

There was also the Rotary Tote for those who wished to place a bet on the races.

There were some eight races on the night, the entry cost also included a meal.

This charity event on March 23 raised more than £550 which will be used to support local charities and good causes.

The Rotary Club of Cannock has a number of events planned for the rest of the Rotary year which ends in July, these include a Ladies Night at Brocton Hall Golf Club, a charity golf day at The Chase Golf Club and in May some 40 members and partners are meeting up with fellow Rotarian friends from France and Germany for a fellowship weekend in Liverpool.

The year ends with a themed garden party.

For more about the Rotary Club of Cannock, email secretary@cannockrotary.co.uk or visit the club's web site at www.cannockrotary.co.uk

Heading towards £7,500 funds goal

Carol Deakin from Mim's Moms

Pure Gym's Amir Khan and Tom Porter

Cannock Friends of Katharine House

DURING the past month Cannock Friends of Katharine House have had three successful fundraising events: an Open Evening at Pure Gym in Hednesford, a Skittles evening at Harrison's Sports and Social Club in Great Wyrley and a wine tasting evening at Mim's Mom's cafe in Cannock.

Together these evening have raised £750 towards the Friends target of £7,500. This target has been set in order that Cannock Friends of Katharine House can fund Christmas Day 2017 at the hospice.

"We know this is an ambitious target but we are determined to get there," said Michelle Renhard, chairman of Cannock Friends of Katharine House. 'Christmas day is always very special and a hospice is no different.

"The staff at Katharine House pull out all the stops at Christmas."

Upcoming fundraising events help the Friends reach their goal include: 'An Afternoon at the Races' at Keys Park Hednesford this Sunday (April 23).

For further information, email cfk2408@hotmail.co.uk or call 07708 662652.

Verdict given on tennis umpire

Cannock TG

AT the AGM in March, Gillian Loftus stepped down as chairman and presented the chain of office to Sue Evans.

Sharon Towers has stepped down from the committee and two members have come forward to join the committee, namely Lesley Wilkes and Michelle Walker. The excellent speaker for the evening was Janet Diamond who was an umpire at Wimbledon for more than 30 years.

She joined as a young woman having a passion for the game and herself a player. She gave an account of the preparation and planning required.

She talked about the strict dress code and protocol. Umpires are not allowed to wear their uniforms outside of Wimbledon.

Meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month at St Lukes School, New Penkridge Road Cannock.

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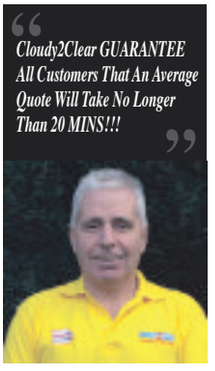

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Work on water treatment site now complete

SOUTH Staffs Water has completed a new multi-million pound water treatment facility.

The development has added an additional stage of treatment using ultra-violet light to disinfect water at the Seedy Mill plant near Lichfield.

The project involved installation of more than 120 valves and four UV reactors, each containing 30 quartz tubes.

The facility is one of the largest UV water treatment plants in the UK. Pete Aspley from South Staffs Water, which serves Cannock, Lichfield and parts of the Black Country, said: "The use of UV light as a disinfection system is now used extensively in the water industry.

"It is a proven, regulated and environmentally friendly technology. It also means less chlorine is needed.

"This is part of the commitment in our current five-year business plan to invest over £190 million in our assets that as well as water treatment works includes over 6,000 kilometres of pipes, new boreholes, reservoirs and pumping stations," Mr Aspley added.

"We need to ensure this network can continue to operate to provide a safe and reliable water supply for current and future generations."

Angling scheme helps keep teenagers in line with law

A FORMER police officer has spoken of his pride after reeling thousands of youngsters away from a life of crime by getting them hooked on fishing.

The Fishing Academy charity, which was the brainchild of Darren Robbins from West Midlands Police, runs an angling and education programme which was set up for young people at risk of getting caught up in anti-social behaviour or exclusion from school.

Just two per cent of schoolchildren have broken their contract of good behaviour after attending the programme, with some going on to work in the fishing industry and waterways as a result of what they learned.

The scheme was initially started by Darren with just a handful of unruly youths from Brownhills in 2004.

Darren, who was a Pc for 30 years and is now a staff member at West Midlands Police, said: "It is hard to believe how the programme has grown; it started off with myself working with a small group who were involved in anti-social behaviour in Brownhills.

Few have broken their contract of good behaviour after attending the programme

"I then got a bit of funding from the police, council and Environment Agency to establish this site, and now we have a purpose-built facility providing a high-level of angling tuition and learning.

"Fishing is the largest participation sport in Europe and is available to everyone, regardless of mental and physical ability.

"I saw there was an opportunity to use it to help keep young people on the straight and narrow, away from bad influences."

The initiative was immediately successful in encouraging secondary school pupils to develop new skills as an angler, learn about the environment and to speak to police in an informal manner.

Attend

This led to the launch of the Fishing Academy, which now works alongside up to 30 schools in the West Midlands to offer support and guidance to young people mainly aged between 12 and 16.

The Academy, based in Abbotts Bromley, has a fishing lake and classrooms for mentoring and education purposes. The programme is tailored to those who attend and has so far helped more than 6,000 youngsters.

RSPCA appeal after swan is shot 10 times

A SWAN had to be put down after it was shot 10 times in a 'disturbing' attack.

The male bird was found with a hole in its neck and peppered with air gun pellets in Burntwood. The RSPCA is now appealing for information.

The swan was found by water near to Big Crane Brook, in Cannock Road, which connects to Chasewater, on March 30. RSPCA inspector Rob Crutchley collected the bird and took him to the charity's Stapeley Grange Wildlife Centre, in Nantwich, Cheshire.

An x-ray showed that the swan had been shot 10 times with an airgun. Pellets were found in the bird's wings, chest, legs, tail and beak.

The protected bird was so badly injured that he was put to sleep to prevent any further suffering.

Mr Crutchley said: "It is shocking and disturbing to think that someone thinks it is acceptable to do this."

Burntwood North councillor Sue Woodward said: "Why anyone would want to kill or injure such a magnificent bird is beyond me. They have must have no sense of morality."

People with information should contact the RSPCA in complete confidence on 0300 123 8018.

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It's time to take a shop on the wildside

Manager Maryjoy Jones at the new Staffordshire Wildlife Trust shop which has opened its doors in Rugeley

STAFFORDSHIRE Wildlife Trust has opened a new shop in Lower Brook Street, Rugeley.

It is hoped the new shop will help fund the trust's work across Staffordshire, including helping run its 27 nature reserves as well as its conservation work and environmental education.

It will take the form of a traditional charity shop and sell a range of preowned items such as clothes, books, DVDs and games. There will also be a range of new items.

The manager of the new shop, Maryjoy Jones, said: "It is a very exciting time for us to be opening our new charity shop in Rugeley. Our headquarters, The Wolseley Centre, is based near the town, and Rugeley is a perfect place for us to open our second shop.

"We hope people in the town like this new venture, and we are looking forward to meeting our new customers."

Grateful

The new shop follows on from the success of the trust's first charity shop, which opened in Leek in 2015.

With the second shop, the trust is now after more donations of quality items such as clothing, books, shoes, bric-a-brac and DVDs. Ms Jones added: "We are extremely grateful to everyone who has donated items, and if anyone has had a spring clearout, they would be more than welcome to bring the items to us, which go towards supporting the shop and in turn the trust."

People wanting to donate items can take them to either of the two shops or either of the trust's two visitor centres – Wolseley, or Westport in Stoke-on-Trent.

Those wanting to volunteer at the new shop are welcome to speak to Ms Jones or one of the team. The Rugeley shop, which opened on April 6, is open 9.30am-4.30pm Monday to Saturday.

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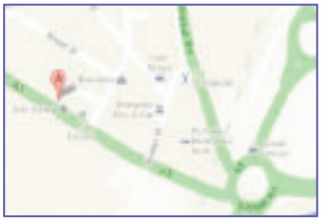

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FOCUS ON RUGELEY

Christine proud to unveil plaque at fire station

FIREFIGHTERS, public figures and residents turned out for the official opening of Rugeley Community Fire Station.

The station was opened by the chairman of the fire and rescue authority Councillor Stephen Sweeney and Chief Fire Officer Rebecca Bryant.

And the unveiling of the centre was performed by resident and charity worker Christine Leech.

Mrs Leech first came into the contact with firefighters at the station 14 years ago when she was a street warden. The relationship has developed over the years, and she has worked alongside the watch at the station on a number of projects and activities.

Pleased

Workers at the station asked for her to have the honour of performing the opening duties as a thank you for her commitment and dedication to the community.

Unveiling a plaque at the station, Mrs Leech said: "At first I thought I was being invited to the opening as a guest, which I was pleased about.

"I was gobsmacked though when the firefighters explained I was actually going to be officially opening the station.

"The watch at the station are so family orientated, and the community means everything to them, so I was extremely proud to have the honour of opening this wonderful facility."

Firefighters moved into the new community fire station in January 26, 2015 but have only just officially opened the site. The building has been designed to provide a range of facilities for the community and partners to use, including a meeting room, a dedicated area for cadets, a gym for supervised groups and a partnership area.

The station is crewed by 20 firefighters who are retained, meaning they respond to incidents via a pager. Station manager Paul Cullen said: "This station has already proved to be a fantastic hub for the community, as well as our firefighters.

"It has also meant we have been able to further strengthen our links to the residents and organisations within Rugeley and give groups a place to meet."

Christine Leech with Chief Fire Officer Rebecca Bryant at the unveiling

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Inflatable fun at bounce event

Imogen Rees, aged five, from Great Wyrley enjoys her day out at The Big Bounce at Hednesford Park

CHILDREN bounced around a park as part of a half-term event packed with inflatable fun.

Families descended on Hednesford Park for The Big Bounce – inflatable slides and bouncy castles among other inflatables.

The event was hosted by The Best Fun, who loan inflatables and organise bouncy events across the West Midlands region.

Youngsters of all ages joined in the fun at Hednesford, as well as at Burntwood Rugby Club, Stafford Cricket Club, Aldridge Cricket Club, and Holland Park in Brownhills.

Some of the attractions included rodeo rides, obstacle courses, football games, races, a go-kart track and a 'total wipeout' game.

Today (Thursday) The Big Bounce will be at Lichfield City Football Club and tomorrow at Lea Hall Club in Rugeley.

For more details, search Big Bounce on Facebook or go to www.thebestfun.co.uk

158 council staff paid more than £100,000

MORE than 150 council workers in the West Midlands were paid salaries of more than £100,000 in 2015-16, new figures show.

Data released by the Taxpayers' Alliance reveals that Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Staffordshire and Birmingham councils all had more than 10 high-ranking employees on at least that figure.

By David Cosgrove

The top earner in the region was named in the report as Sharon Lea, the former strategic director of place in Birmingham, who received £414,100 in 2015-16.

A total of 158 workers were on more than £100,000 in the year, including 14 staff in Wolverhampton and Sandwell, 13 in Staffordshire and 23 in Birmingham.

The scale of the salaries has been labelled 'absolutely astonishing' and 'insane' by West Midlands MEP Bill Etheridge.

Among the top earners in the region is Wolverhampton council's managing director Keith Ireland, whose salary was £170,100 in the financial year.

Sandwell Council chief executive Jan Britton was paid £156,942 in 2015-16 – slightly down from £157,192 the previous year. Meanwhile, Dudley Council chief executive Sarah Norman received £184,000 and Walsall's chief executive Paul Sheehan £196,627 while Walsall director for change and governance Julie Alderson earned £173,200.

Wolverhampton's council recently announced the departure of strategic director for people Linda Sanders, who the report highlights as earning £237,962 in 2015-16.

Dudley Council had five employees earning more than £150,000 as did Sandwell and Wolverhampton, with three in Walsall, four in Birmingham and six in Staffordshire.

Wolverhampton council's cabinet member Milkinder Jaspal defended the payments as necessary in the face of private sector salaries.

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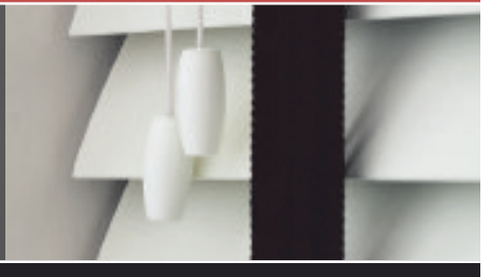

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The height of fundraising

THE British Red Cross is looking for Staffordshire walkers to take on the Trek Snowdon challenge this summer. It takes place on June 17 and covers 10 miles. Red Cross fundraiser Karina Norton-Amor said: "This is a fantastic trek and although it might sound quite daunting at first, it is very achievable and incredibly rewarding when you finish. Plus, the views at the top are spectacular." Taking part in the event costs £10 with a sponsorship target of £100. Contact the national events team on 0344 412 2877 or email challenges@redcross.org.uk to sign up.

Candidates set out their policies for county poll

VOTERS will be heading to the polls in Staffordshire next month for the county council elections. All 62 seats are up for grabs.

The authority has been under Conservative control since 2009, and the May 4 elections will see candidates contesting 56 wards. The Tories, who lost 15 seats in 2013, currently hold 34 seats – 12 more than Labour. UKIP and the Greens have one seat each.

Independent candidates hold four seats. The Lib Dems do not have a single seat on the council.

In 2013 the turnout was 29 per cent – a fall of eight per cent from 2009. A party requires 32 seats for a majority.

Councillors are elected for a four-year term by the first-past-the-post system.

This year, seven seats are up for grabs in Cannock Chase, eight in Lichfield, eight in South Staffordshire and nine in Stafford.

By Peter Madeley

Launched

Wards in Newcastle, Staffordshire Moorlands and Tamworth will also be contested, along with East Staffordshire, where council leader Philip Atkins's seat is on the line.

Tory Party chairman and former Cannock miner Patrick McLoughlin was on hand when the Conservatives launched their manifesto. Mr Atkins announced plans for major new county-wide investment in social care, infrastructure, digital technology and training.

The party has also pledged to address issues with the county's roads, with an extra £5m over the next year on highways improvements and maintenance.

Meanwhile, the Labour opposition says it is committed to building a thriving local economy that provides well-paid jobs and a higher quality of life.

The Labour group is led by Councillor Susan Woodward, who will contest her Burntwood North seat in the elections.

The party's manifesto pledges to balance the books by being innovative rather than penalising the county's most vulnerable residents.

Three members of the same family will contest seats for the Green Party.

They are Ian Hollinshead, who was elected as Labour councillor in 2013 before quitting the party in February 2015, his wife Sharon, a former Stafford Borough councillor, and their son Toby. Ian Hollinshead said the party's priorities were health and education.

UKIP's Jeff Sheriff will defend the Burntwood South seat he landed in 2013.

Other parties involved in the elections include Local Residents Putting the People First, which will contest the two seats in Hednesford and Rawnsley. Geoff Small is up for election in the Stafford North ward for the Stafford Hospital Referendum Party, while Philip Peter stands for Something New in Lichfield City North.

Warehouse plans sent for decision by district council

PLANNING applications received by Lichfield District Council include:

Unit 14, Burntwood Business Park Zone 1, Attwood Road, Burntwood – extension to warehouse and associated works.

Land at Padbury Lane, Creswell Green, Burntwood – agricultural determination: erection of agricultural building for storage of hay and farm machinery.

Land opposite 138-188 Chorley Road, Burntwood – erection of agricultural/equestrian building.

The Cottage, Goosemoor Green, Rugeley – erection of stable block and menage with associated works.

Former Rugeley Power Station, Armitage Road, Rugeley – creation of second access into the power station site from Rugeley Road (A513) including new roundabout junction.

Richard Crosse Church Of England Primary School, Lichfield Road, Kings Bromley – fell poplar tree to ground level due to storm damage, the tree having lost two 'limbs'; fell beech tree to ground level as it took the full force of a poplar limb; fell three ash saplings to ground level as they are spindly and weak and are also next to the road.

Comments must be received by May 1.

Golf Mk5 owners to hold charity meet

Edward Wilson, left, and Nathan Moore are helping to put together a meeting of Volkswagen Golf Mk5 owners

A GROUP of petrol-heads are hoping to raise £1,000 for charity when they descend on RAF Cosford next month.

More than 100 Volkswagen Golf Mk5 owners will show off their cars at the gathering on May 21.

It has been set up by Nathan Moore, who is a member of the MK5 Golf Owners Club UK Facebook page, and Edward Wilson, who runs Survive The Scene, a group aimed at changing negative preconceptions about car meets. They have chosen to raise money for Cancer Research having both had people they know suffer from the disease.

The Mk5 is the fifth generation of the Volkswagen Golf and the successor to the Volkswagen Golf Mk4. It was replaced in 2009 by the Mk6. The meet takes place on May 21 at RAF Cosford from around 10am until around 4pm.

New laws bid on fireworks

AN MP is lobbying for tighter restrictions on businesses selling fireworks following a tragic factory fire which killed two Hednesford men.

The blaze at SP Plastics in Stafford on October 30, 2014, claimed the lives of 41-year-old worker Simon Hillier, a father-of-one, and 57-year-old customer Stewart Staples, a father-of-three.

Inquests have not taken place due to the fact a criminal investigation has still not been completed. Stafford MP Jeremy Lefroy said the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) had made some changes to regulations since he raised the issue in Parliament.

But the MP said he hoped to force further action after the full details of the fire had been revealed, either at an inquest or in any criminal case.

"We had a debate in Parliament, and the HSE have made one or two changes around the licensing process for selling fireworks, around the application forms," Mr Lefroy said.

"The inquests have not happened yet, and we still do not know the full details of what happened. After they take place I am hoping we can get some more things changed."

The inquests have been adjourned numerous times. In October, around the second anniversary of the fire, the Crown Prosecution Service said it had requested further evidence from Staffordshire Police following an initial file that was handed over in August 2015.

The force responded by stating that the scale of the destruction caused by the blaze had contributed to the length of the investigation.

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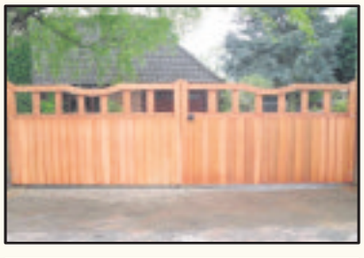

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Projects can get boost from bags scheme

COMMUNITY projects in Rugeley could receive a cash injection thanks to Tesco's Bags of Help initiative.

Tesco teamed up with Groundwork to launch the monthly roll-out of its funding scheme, which sees grants of up to £4,000 – all raised from the 5p bag levy – being awarded to local community projects.

Tesco's Bags of Help project has already delivered more than £28.5 million to 4,000-plus projects all over the UK and the company is now calling on community groups in Rugeley to put themselves forward for a grant.

Three groups in each local area will be awarded grants every other month. Tesco customers will have the chance to vote with a token given to them at the check-out every time they shop.

Lindsey Crompton, head of community at Tesco, said: "The money raised from our customers buying bags is making a big difference to local communities across the country."

Graham Duxbury, national CEO at Groundwork, said: "It's great to see the positive difference that Bags of Help is making to communities across the UK."

Community groups and charities can apply for funding and Tesco customers and colleagues can nominate projects they'd like to see receive some cash. Visit www.tesco.com/bagsofhelp/

£1m factory extension to support £40m target

A NEW £1 million factory extension has been unveiled by PP Control & Automation in Cheslyn Hay as it signals its intention to double sales from £20 million to £40m by 2021.

The company, which works with many of the world's most successful machinery builders, has added a further 1,000 square metres of production space to its existing 4,500 square metre facility in Landywood Green.

The aim is to facilitate growth in new technology markets and interest from a wider international customer base. With construction completed on time, work is under way to kit out the logistics and material department with conveyor systems and state-of-the-art barcode scanning to ensure goods are moved around the shopfloor quickly and efficiently.

Also planned is a new 'clean assembly' area that will cater for an increasing need to assemble static sensitive electronics, as well as intricate mechanical parts that have more specialist assembly requirements.

MD Tony Hague, left, and chairman David Fox of PP Control & Automation

Managing director Tony Hague said: "We have very ambitious growth plans to double turnover and this will only be possible by ensuring we have a facility in the UK that can provide us with the space needed to meet our current and future customer requirements. The £1m investment, in the immediate light of the Brexit vote, shows our commitment to creating a world-class operation, and we will showcase our new capabilities to clients in the food processing and packaging, machine tool, medical, printing, semiconductor and scientific machinery sectors."

Mr Hague said PP Control & Automation was confident that its four-year plan to reach £40m would be achieved.

"We don't envisage Article 50 or Brexit having too much of an influence on what we do," he said.

The company has benefitted significantly from the 'outsourcing' trend being employed by machinery builders who are keen to reduce production lead times, secure greater manufacturing flexibility and ultimately reduce overall manufacturing costs and increase their profitability.

Investment

David Fox, chairman of PP Control & Automation, said: "It's not just investment in bricks and mortar either. Over the last six months we have been steadily recruiting new members of staff across the business – in production, engineering, sales and supply chain management."

PP Control & Automation will also hold a special event to mark the official opening of the extension later his year, as part of its programme of 50th anniversary celebrations.

Song sessions to tackle curse of dementia

PEOPLE with dementia are invited to join new singing sessions starting next month in Stafford and Cannock.

They aim to provide them – and their carers and older adults – the chance to meet, socialise and engage in an activity with their partners or loved ones.

Songs for You is led by the Arts for Health team at South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, and sessions are delivered by professional singing practitioner Gillie Nicholls.

Participants can have a natter, a cup of tea and a piece of cake and take part in singing songs by artists from The Beatles, Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra to acts dating back to the 1930s and 1940s.

Helen Wilson, Arts for Health project leader, said: "Songs for You sessions help people reconnect and enjoy having quality time together. Singing is a positive and evocative tool helping people with dementia to re-kindle memories through recalled songs and lyrics."

Sessions will run at Walton Village Hall, Stafford, from 1.30 to 2.30pm on May 8 and at St Barnabas Community Church Hall in Hampton Street, Cannock, from1.30 to 2.30pm on May 9.

For more information call Helen Wilson on 01785 221328 or 07964 208542 or email helen.wilson@sssft.nhs.uk

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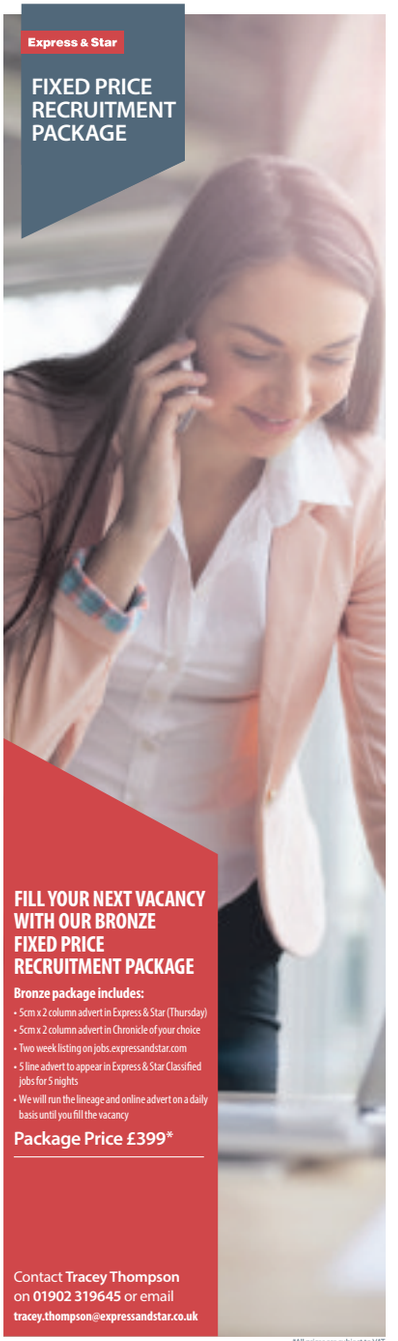

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Melissa to pedal for funds

Melissa

BURNTWOOD woman Melissa Beasley is to pedal away for 10 hours tomorrow (Friday) to raise money for charity. The 28-year-old will be using a cycle machine at Burntwood Leisure Centre from 9am to 7pm. Proceeds will be donated to help the Pathway Project provide a 24-hour helpline, an emergency refuge and legal aid and counselling for anyone experiencing or affected by domestic abuse. Go to www.justgiving.com/melissa-beasley

Sharp rise in county's benefits claimants

STAFFORDSHIRE has seen a sharp rise in the number of people claiming jobless benefits, despite a national drop in unemployment.

There were 5,825 people claiming benefits such as Jobseeker's Allowance across the county in March, the Office for National Statistics said, representing a jump of 340 on the previous month's figure.

It comes that despite national figures showing unemployment falling to its lowest in a decade and a record number of job vacancies on offer.

Nationwide, the jobless total was cut by 45,000 between December and February to 1.56 million – a reduction of 141,000 since a year ago and the lowest recorded since the end of 2006.

But the number of people in the West Midlands region – including Staffordshire – claiming unemployment benefits actually went up last month, rising by 175 to 87,975.

Longer

The figures differ because not everyone classed as unemployed is eligible to claim benefits such as Jobseeker's Allowance or the Universal Credit.

Job queues right across southern Staffordshire got longer last month, the new figures reveal.

In the Cannock Chase district the count was up by 35 to 850, although that represents just 1.4 per cent of the district's working population, and way below the national average of two per cent.

In Lichfield the count was up by 40 to 475, or 0.8 per cent, while in South Staffordshire it rose by 20 to 770 or 1.1 per cent.

In Stafford it was up 85 to 770, or 1.1 per cent.

By Simon Penfold

In another warning shot for the future of Britain's economy, the latest set of figures show wage growth has slowed to a virtual standstill.

Average earnings increased by 2.3 per cent in the year to February, unchanged from the previous month, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported.

Senior ONS statistician David Freeman said: "Higher inflation, coupled with subdued earnings increases, means that the real growth rate in pay has tailed off to just above zero."

But he added: "A joint record employment rate and a new record high for the number of vacancies point to continued strength in the labour market."

Nationally, the number of people who are in work continued to increase – up by 39,000 on the latest quarter to 31.8 million, giving an employment rate of 74.6 per cent, which is the joint highest since records began in 1971.

Commenting on the jobless statistics, Work and Pensions Secretary Damian Green said: "This is yet another strong set of figures, with unemployment at a rate that hasn't been beaten since the 1970s and more vacancies than ever before."

Graduates urged to aim for social worker careers

GRADUATES from across Staffordshire are being encouraged to apply to become the next generation of child and family social workers.

Applications are open for Step Up to Social Work, a fast-track 14-month programme that combines real-world experience in Staffordshire County Council's Families First social work teams with high-quality university training.

Successful candidates will be awarded a post-graduate diploma in social work when they graduate, allowing them to register and practise as a social worker.

Six places in total are available through the scheme. Applicants need to apply through the Department for Education before the closing date of May 5.

Candidates are eligible to apply if they have a 2:1 degree, or a 2:2 plus a higher degree, which can include a master's degree or a Post-graduate Certificate in Education, in a discipline other than social work.

They should also have the equivalent of a GCSE Grade C in maths and English, and experience of working with children, young people or families.

After applications close visit www.gov.uk/guidance/step-up-to-social-work-information-for-applicants

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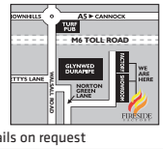

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Suspended head of PR at council quits her job

STAFFORDSHIRE County Council's suspended head of HR has resigned.

Lisa Cartwright had been suspended on full pay from her £84,030-a-year job at the authority since December 7, with the county council refusing to say why.

Now Ms Cartwright has tendered her resignation to the council's chief executive John Henderson, who informed staff he had accepted her resignation.

But the mystery surrounding her continues, as the authority has again refused to say why she was suspended from the role she had held since October 2011. Bosses previously said they could not comment on her circumstances as it was an ongoing investigation.

However, despite her now having resigned, the authority is still refusing to reveal why she was suspended.

This is despite calls from elected members of the county council calling on the authority to be more transparent and open surrounding her suspension whenit was reported last month that she remained suspended three months on, on full pay.

Wayne Coombe, who stepped up as interim head of HR, will remain in the post until further notice.

Meanwhile, the council's strategic property chief Jamie MacDonald, who was suspended weeks after Ms Cartwright on December 29 in an unrelated incident, remains suspended on full pay. He is on £72,297 a year.

Mr MacDonald, who joined the council in 2008, is also a director of Penda Property Partnership – a joint venture company set up between Kier and the council.

He and his department are responsible for transforming the way that council property is managed, establishing a corporate landlord approach and mapping the public estate.

He is one of the figures behind the authority's money-saving initiative for public bodies to share offices.

Vets celebrates winning three titles

Party time for 387 Veterinary Centre staff after landing three awards

GREAT Wyrley-based 387 Veterinary Centre has landed three esteemed awards.

Joanne Civil received the Veterinary Practice Support Staff of the Year award after impressing judges with the 'boundless creativity she brings to her role'.

She said: "I'm delighted to have won. This is really a career highlight."

Nicky Smith was awarded the accolade of Vet Nurse of the Year. The panel of judges noted her contribution to growing the practice. And the 387 team was named Veterinary Practice of the Year.

All of the prizes were presented at the 2017 Petplan Veterinary Awards ceremony held at Birmingham Town Hall. For further information on the awards and to learn more about the winners, visit https://www.petplan.co.uk/vetawards/

Region's deadly roads

THE West Midlands has the most dangerous roads in the country, according to official figures.

There were 37,153 people hurt or killed in the region between 2011 and 2015 – making it the most lethal area to drive a car in the country.

But residents are less likely to be a casualty in a road accident, with one in 155 likely to be hurt or killed on the road.

The analysis from government statistics revealed that Staffordshire was the 16th most dangerous part of the country to travel through by car, with 19,577 people hurt or killed over the period.

But based on population, one in 56 people were likely to be involved in a serious collision, the research shows.

The most dangerous stretches of road had 30mph speed limits – making up 57 per cent of all accidents that led to injury or death. The next most dangerous was 60mph, followed by 40mph zones.

The data suggests you're odds-on to crash on a Thursday – and least likely on Mondays.

Experts have warned motorists to be careful this summer with more people expected to be holidaying in Britain due to current exchange rates.

A spokesman for Witter Towbars, which gathered the research, said: "We hope that exposing such statistics will make road users more alert when travelling to their desired destinations."

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Scouts win award for growing numbers

Steve Backshall, County Commissioner for Staffordshire Paula Evans, Pat Russel, Mary Tarry and Gareth Watson

THE Scouts continue to thrive in Staffordshire, and have been awarded for doing so.

Staffordshire Scouts were awarded the first National Scout award for having the third biggest percentage of growth in membership over the past year.

The inaugural awards, which took place at the University of Warwick at the start of the month, included speeches from celebrity Scout ambassador Steve Backshall. Staffordshire Scouts now have more than 8,000 members aged between six and 25 and are supported by 1,800 volunteers.

Over the past year the group have welcomed more than 260 young people to join their packed programme.

Paul Evans, county commissioner for the Scouts, said: "Winning this award is amazing, we are over the moon. We work really had to make sure as many young people as possible get places in our groups."

Cancer contract bid axed

A PROPOSAL to 'privatise' cancer care in Staffordshire has fallen through.

Campaigners who opposed the move welcomed the news but have been angered by the £840,000 they say has been wasted in the failed procurement process.

The bidders for the contract to co-ordinate cancer care throughout the county, from diagnosis to treatment and end-of-life care, had been whittled down to one, but it has been unsuccessful. Bosses said the bidder failed to meet the necessary criteria. The £690 million 10-year contract was half of a £1.2 billion county plan.

But campaigners were angry when it emerged that private firm Interserve was in line to form a consortium with interested health trusts. More than 66,000 people backed the Cancer Not For Profit (CNFP) campaign for the deal to be axed altogether.

Those calls grew louder when the project was suspended in the wake of a similar contract involving the Uniting Care Partnership in Cambridge collapsing. After the latest announcement CNFP campaigner Gail Gregory, from Gnosall, said: "Yes, I am glad, but I am furious at the waste of money and time in coming to this decision."

Andrew Donald, senior officer responsible for the programme, is chief officer for Cannock Chase, South East Staffordshire & Seisdon Peninsula and Stafford & Surrounds CCGs.

He said: "Commissioners have completed the cancer procurement, and following evaluation of the bid it has not been possible to award the contract because the bidder did not meet the required evaluation criteria."

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Girls from Year Seven at Queen Mary's High School visit Whitemoor Lakes

Queen Mary's High School is a unique learning environment where students are able to thrive and develop knowing that they are supported by a committed and skilled staff in a setting where family values and high moral standards are central to our ethos.

Some praise from pour parents included: "I am so glad I sent my child to QM, she has learnt brilliant moral values and grown a lot as a person."

"QMHS has been fantastic for my daughter. I think the balance between work/results and developing the whole person is perfect.

"There is a lovely warm atmosphere in the school and it makes me feel proud every time I go to see my daughter there."

"My child has been happy and flourished both in her education, social skills and confidence."

A spokesman for the school said: "At Queen Mary's High School, we take the individual needs of our students very seriously, both in their academic work and also in a variety of other ways. Lessons are designed to ensure that each student is challenged at the appropriate level as well as to provide opportunities for developing teamwork, leadership, cooperation, listening and a variety of other skills.

"The key element for success is enjoyment and you see plenty of that here at Queen Mary's High School.

"The move to secondary school is a pivotal one in the life of any young person and choosing the right school can be challenging," the spokesman added.

"Do come and visit us on one of our open events as only then will you be able to experience the unique environment that our school community has to offer."

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Make sure you know about changes to inheritance tax

Commercial feature

Do you know that inheritance tax has changed?

If you or a loved one dies after April 6, 2017 your estate may qualify for the new additional residence nil rate band.

What were the previous rules?

Under the previous rules, an individual could leave £325,000 before any inheritance tax may have become due.

What are the new rules?

From April 6, 2017, up to an additional £100,000 per person may be claimed if their family home or a share of it is left to a direct descendant, rising to £175,000 per person in 2020. This is called the residence nil rate band.

For married couples and civil partners, any unused residence nil rate band from the first spouse's death may be transferred to the surviving spouse or civil partner's estate. This can be done even if the first person died before April 6, 2017.

Who do the new rules apply to?

The residence nil rate band is available for all individuals, married couples and civil partners who leave their property or a share of it to a direct descendant.

Who is a direct descendant?

A direct descendant is a child or children (including a step-child, adopted child or foster child) or grandchildren of the deceased and their descendants.

Is there a limit on the size of the estate?

Yes, for estates valued at more than £2 million, the residence nil rate band will be gradually withdrawn or tapered away.

Tracey Lane of Ansons Solicitors can advise on changes to inheritance tax

What are the new thresholds?

The residence nil rate band will be introduced in the following stages:

- £100,000 in 2017 to 2018;
- £125,000 in 2018 to 2019;
- £150,000 in 2019 to 2020;
- £175,000 in 2020 to 2021.

What if I have given away my house or downsized?

If you have given away your home or downsized after July 7, 2015 your estate may still be entitled to the additional residence nil rate band.

Do I need to change my will?

Maybe. Although the new rules will work with most people's current wills, some wills may need to be changed to ensure that their estate will benefit from the new rules. For example, if your will contains a discretionary trust then the residence nil rate band cannot be claimed.

For more advice or a free 30-minute consultation please contact Tracey Lane on 01543 431932 or email Tracey at tlane@ansonssolicitors.com

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April 30th, 11.30am - 4.30pm
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Comedy chaos? We'll guarantee it

BOGIES! One simple word that sums up the Saturday mornings of a generation. Now, more than 10 years later, comedy duo Dick and Dom, or Richard McCourt and Dominic Wood, are back with their live tour.

It reaches the Core Theatre in Solihull on April 22, Sutton Coldfield Town Hall on August 17 and Stafford Gatehouse on October 29.

The pair sat down with The Ticket to fill us in on what mad capers fans can expect from the show.

"Basically we split the crowd into two different teams so we have the Dick vs the Dom," says Dom.

"We play loads of different games, we bring the crowd up on stage to play games as well and then whoever wins the round gets a point for their team. Then the team with the most points wins!"

Nothing is this simple in the world of Dick and Dom – and anything can happen on their live tour, with each night promising to be different.

"We've been doing it for about five or six years now but this is the first time we've done it as a UK tour," says Dick.

"It's really good fun, it's one of those shows that has the same sort of feel as Dick and Dom in Da Bungalow with all of the chaos – you just don't know what's going to happen!"

Capers – Dick and Dom bring their live show to the Midlands

FLASH

"We can't wait to return to the Midlands, it has great audiences. We did our last tour in Birmingham in front of thousands of people and it was really warm."

Dick and Dom are famed for their own brand of whimsical chaos on our TV screens, a style that they adapted to stage in a flash.

"We've been doing this for more than 20 years now, so a lot of the ideas now have just been crafted over time that we know work," says Dick.

"The live show Dick vs Dom is basically a culmination of everything we've done over the years in one package. We're like one big joke book, one big file of different routines, show bits, festival bits and we just put all of that together for our live shows."

With such an extensive array of kooky highlights from their career – what's their favourite?

"We really have to look back at Dick and Dom in Da Bungalow for that, that's one of our favourite things that we have ever done, and obviously it had the very famous game 'Bogies' that has stayed with the audience ever since," Dick tells us.

"Obviously that audience has grown up now and we have taken it with us when we've done university tours. It's become a classic, it was on BBC One, BBC Two and all these digital channels afterwards for people to watch."

"The 'Bogies' game just sticks, I don't know what it is with it! It channels that sort of Horrid Henry and Dennis the Menace sort of vibe that people love," Dom continues.

"We brought it back recently for Comic Relief and doing it again, as 40 year olds, was just great!

"It's funny that most children who are watching us on BBC now, when you write bogies on an autograph they have no idea why you've put it!"

Dick and Dom's career started more than 20 years ago, after years of hard work.

"At the young age of 18 I was a tea boy and a runner and I started at the bottom and worked my way up," Dick tells us.

Dom adds: "As for me, I was a jobbing magician in the south west, and I used that in a job interview and just worked really hard.

"We were then both presenters for the CBBC but we weren't comedians really, then there was this props guy who worked behind the scenes and he used to be like 'oh, here comes Dick and Dom!' and it just stuck.

"From that moment we got picked up by producer Steve Ride and he just developed our act even more and then we discovered we could just do fun things. It just came naturally, it wasn't a conscious decision by us."

From this, a whole new generation of comedy lovers was born as children tuned into their TV screens to catch a glimpse of the raucous duo.

In 2002, iconic programme Dick and Dom in Da Bungalow first aired and it was a programme that changed the duo's lives forever and led to further shows such as Diddy Movies, Dick and Dom's Hoopla, Absolute Genius and more.

> *The 'Bogies' game just sticks . . . it channels that sort of Horrid Henry vibe*

"Making the Bungalow was absolutely amazing. As teenagers all we wanted to do was to become CBBC presenters but moreso, the ultimate goal was to work on Saturday morning on BBC One." Dom enthuses.

"When we eventually got the call to say they wanted us to do that, we just didn't know what to do, it was amazing. That's just half the battle, the other half is just making sure everyone loves it and thankfully we succeeded.

"We all had an absolute riot making it, every single week we were howling with laughter. Everyone there genuinely was having the best time. It led to so many amazing things afterwards, it opened so many doors."

It's not just TV Dick and Dom have mastered, they've also had stints in theatre starring in the likes of Spamalot, Aladdin and Dick Whittington.

"It's instant gratification really, you see everyone having a great time in front of you," Dick tells us.

We wonder, what's coming up for the duo?

"We can't reveal everything yet, but we do have a lot of really exciting things to look forward to!" Dom says. "We're stacked up, and we do have some absolute crackers in the works, but we just can't reveal all yet!"

Becci Stanley

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

Philip Morris as Rick Braithwaite

To Sir, With Love still has a message for us today

E.R. Braithwaite's powerful story, To Sir, With Love, is brought to life at Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Wednesday to Saturday, April 25-May 6.

Immortalised in the classic 1967 film starring Sidney Poitier, and adapted for the stage by the writer of East Is East, Ayub Khan-Din, this new production directed by Gwenda Hughes and Tom Saunders will be brought to life by a company of young performers alongside professional actors.

Following last year's sell-out run of The Rotters' Club by Birmingham Repertory Theatre's Young Rep, the young performers aged 15 to 21 from the West Midlands will take to The Rep's main stage again, alongside Philip Morris as Rick Braithwaite.

Based on E. R. Braithwaite's autobiography, To Sir, With Love is an inspirational story of courage and hope. Rick Braithwaite, a Cambridge graduate and ex-RAF fighter pilot, has fought for his country but is still fighting for acceptance. No employer wants him.

As the reality of life as a black man in post-war Britain hits him, he is forced to take a teaching post in a tough inner city school. Rick's class don't want him. The world has given up on them. But Rick knows what it's like to be ignored and isn't going to turn his back on them. This is a story about fighting prejudice with hope, set during a time of austerity, so still relevant.

On what drew him Ayub Khan-Din said "It was about reading the book and seeing what resonated. For me that was the discussion about education. Especially today, as everyone is so concerned about the way we're educating our children."

See birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.

Kane now able to make a change

Russell Kane is a changed man. For his Right Man, Wrong Age tour, which calls at Stourbridge Town Hall on Sunday, April 30, you may encounter someone with a new look, fresh perspectives and a different approach to his comedy.

"In the last year I've been married and had a baby. I've changed my hair, I've changed my look, I've thrown all my eyeliner in the bin.

"I literally went to my wardrobe one day and got all my ridiculous clothes and took them to the Sue Ryder shop for some other man having a midlife crisis, then bought the four exact same suits in different colours from Topman.

Then I got my hair as flat as it can go and I thought, 'that's it: this is me now'."

Russell can pinpoint the exact moment when he needed to alter his outlook and write a new show. It started with somebody at the door.

"I'm always looking for the moment that can make me look ridiculous in a way that is compelling. I was in the middle of spray-tanning myself in these tiny pants when the doorbell went.

"I went downstairs in my dressing gown and this window cleaner was touting for work. He said, 'I'm really sorry to disturb you: is your mum or dad in at all?' You might have thought this was a compliment, but it's really not. He could be talking about how I'm putting myself across so I thought: 'clothes in the bin'. And at that moment, there was Right Man, Wrong Age."

In the world of stand-up, acts are continually expected to evolve and grow and turn over a significant amount of material every one or two years. For some this burden might prove too much, but for Russell Kane this is a challenge he relishes. "I'll keep changing, and I don't really ever want to stand still. I don't care if it confuses people about where I'm coming from."

His sense of gratitude for the job he's doing is palpable. "I love it. If I ever have a bad day and feel miserable, I think about the things my family have done for a living. The fact that I can go and do an hour's work on stage is incredible."

For details see www.boroughhalls.co.uk or call 01384 812812. All tickets £17.

Sir Ken spreads a little happiness

Veteran comedian Ken Dodd brings his Happiness Show to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Saturday.

The 89-year-old comedy legend from Liverpool remains one of the hardest working men in showbusiness, though he now mostly limits himself to weekend gigs.

Sir Ken's performances are famous for their epic length as the 'Squire of Notty Ash' tickles his audience with countless gags delivered in his inimitable style.

Bands uniting for charity concerts

Brum Bands Unite is a St George's Day celebration at Birmingham Town Hall in support of the Justice for the 21 Campaign, for the victims of the 1974 pub bombings by the IRA in the city.

Brum musical stalwarts such as Steve Gibbons, Quill, Vix and the Mischiefs (ex-Fuzzbox) and Morganisation (ex-ELO) will join Bitty McLean, Chris Tye and the Inspiration Ladies Choir on Sunday evening. Tickets cost £12.

There is another charity concert the following weekend, on Sunday, April 30, when Fudgestock 2017 is held at the Robin 2 in Bilston. The gig, from 4pm to 11pm, features six bands in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. The line up includes Phoenix Rising, Wounded Spirit, Dirty Roxx, David Young Band, Craig Patge and White Room.

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Gary Barlow and Tim Firth's award-winning musical comedy THE GIRLS is now at the Phoenix Theatre in London's glittering West End having received fantastic 5 star reviews! Audiences are saying "I've laughed at musicals, I've cried at musicals, but I've never cried and laughed at the same time."

This great new musical comedy, based on a true story about a group of ladies who do the unthinkable for charity is the result of a collaboration between two long-time friends who grew up in Frodsham, Cheshire (where Daniel Craig's dad ran the local pub).

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SATURDAY'S TV APRIL 22

CHOICE

Ant & Dec

Britain's Got Talent (ITV, 8pm)
Another selection of would-be entertainers hope to exhilarate and amuse in equal measure, as they take to the stage to demonstrate their individual talents to judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, David Walliams and Alesha Dixon in the second round of the audition stage. As ever, Ant and Dec are on hand to give viewers an insight into the action backstage, and to congratulate – or comfort – the acts as they return from their moment in the limelight.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** London Marathon: My Reason to Run. **1.45** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. **4.30** BBC News. **4.40** Regional Programme. **4.50** Match of the Day Live. Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspur (Kick-off 5.15pm).

7.20 Doctor Who. The Doctor and Bill find themselves in a gleaming, perfect city in the far future, at the edge of the galaxy. This new settlement is said to hold the secret of human happiness, but when the pair try to make contact with the locals, all they find are piles of grinning skulls. As the Time Lord and his new travelling pal seek to solve the terrifying mystery, a sinister force stirs within the walls, and from the shadows the cute but deadly emojibots are watching. Guest starring Ralf Little, with Matt Lucas as Nardole.

8.10 Casualty. Part one of two. The first day of Cal's strike causes chaos for Sam, who decides to make up for staff shortages by manning the ED himself, despite his lack of experience.

9.00 BBC News; Weather.

9.20 All Round to Mrs Brown's. Agnes and the family are joined in studio by choirmaster Gareth Malone and singer Peter Andre, while Steps perform their new single Scared of the Dark in Foley's pub and Nick Knowles teams up with Dermot and Buster for their Celebrity Boat Tour adventure; National Lottery Update.

10.20 Match of the Day. Dan Walker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including West Ham United v Everton and Bournemouth v Middlesbrough.

11.20 Murder in Successville. New series. Sleet and sidekick Richard Osman wade into the art underworld to catch Bjork's killer, with Hillary Clinton, Arsene Wenger, Zayn Malik and Bill Nighy all in the frame.

11.50 Film: Reign of Fire. (2002) Fantasy adventure, starring Christian Bale and Matthew McConaughey.

1.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 Film: Tom Thumb. (1958) **7.55 Film:** That's Entertainment! (1974) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) **12.30** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **1.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **1.30** Live European Gymnastics Championships: Apparatus Finals. Coverage from Cluj. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Flog It! (R)

6.00 Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby. Giles Coren and Monica Galetti join the staff working in some of the most unusual hotels around the world. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the final session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where one second-round match is due to finish and another set to begin.

8.00 BBC Young Dancer 2017. Anita Rani and Ore Oduba are joined by celebrated ballerina Darcey Bussell as they host coverage of the grand final of this year's Young Dancer of the Year contest. Over the course of the past months, entrants for the Street Dance, Ballet, South Asian and Contemporary categories have been whittled down to five finalists, with one act representing each discipline, along with a "wildcard" entrant. Now, Royal Ballet director Kevin O'Hare, choreographers Jasmine Vardimon, Marc Brew, Kate Prince and Kenneth Tharp, and Kathak dancer Nahid Siddiqui must decide which entrant will claim the title. Last in the series.

10.00 QI XL. An extended edition in which Stephen Fry is joined by Sandi Toksvig, Aisling Bea, Susan Calman and regular panellist Alan Davies to navigate the topic of mathematics.

10.45 Versailles. A high-profile poisoning leaves a coveted vacancy, while Philippe's exiled lover Chevalier is allowed home – so a new marriage must be arranged; (R) Inside Versailles.

11.45 Snooker: The World Championship. Highlights of the concluding session on day eight at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where another second-round match was scheduled to conclude.

12.35 Snooker: World Championship Extra. **2.35 Film:** Blackthorn. (2011) **4.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Scooty. (R) **6.35** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.55** NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25 Film:** Free Willy 3: The Rescue. (1997) **11.10** James Martin's French Adventure. (R) **12.10** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** Tipping Point. (R) **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Ayr. Coverage from Ayr Racecourse. **4.30** Britain's Got More Talent. (R) **5.30** Catchphrase. (R)

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Take Me Out. A group of men enters the "love lift" in the hope of impressing 30 single women and winning a date – but must first get the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Paddy McGuinness presents.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. More would-be entertainers hope to impress Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, David Walliams and Alesha Dixon in the second round of the audition stage.

9.20 Through the Keyhole. Keith Lemon hosts the third series of the revival of the classic game show originally presented by David Frost. Visiting three mystery celebrity homes each week, he challenges an all-star panel to guess the identities of the famous occupants based on clues highlighted along each tour and the help of the studio audience. In this edition, the Celebrity Juice funnyman is joined by celebrity chef Gino D'Acampo, Coronation Street star Sue Cleaver (Eileen Grimshaw), and comedian and actor Johnny Vegas. (R)

10.25 ITV News; Weather.

10.40 Film: Bend It Like Beckham. (2002) A schoolgirl tries to keep her passion for football a secret from her parents – but then gets the chance to turn professional. Comedy, starring Parminder Nagra and Keira Knightley.

12.45 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.45** Motor Sport: British GT. **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** Extreme Food. **12.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **1.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Grand Designs. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

6.55 Making Western Flag. A short film displaying artist John Gerrard's simulated impression of the Spindletop oil field in Texas, which was the site of the first major oil find of the Texas Oil Boom.

7.00 Escape to the Chateau. Fresh from the success of hosting a three-day wedding at the chateau, Dick and Angel make business plans for the grounds, intending to charge people to fish in the moat and forage in the woods. Angel starts work on a second guest suite, but also wants to install an elevator, which pushes Dick's engineering skills to the limit. (R)

8.00 Man Made Planet: Earth from Space. Tim Peake and some of his fellow astronauts make use of full-profile images of Earth to detail the remarkable impact human civilisation has had on the planet's landscape.

9.00 Film: Dracula Untold. (2014) Premiere. A Romanian knight fights to defend his homeland against Turkish invaders. Faced with overwhelming odds, he enters into a dangerous bargain to gain supernatural powers so he can drive off his enemies – but the deal could cost him his humanity as he transforms into a terrifying monster. Fantasy adventure, starring Luke Evans.

10.45 Film: The Eagle. (2011) A Roman centurion and his British slave journey into the wilds of Scotland to recover the standard of a lost legion. Action adventure, starring Channing Tatum and Jamie Bell.

12.55 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.45** Hollyoaks. (R) **3.50** Location, Location, Location. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.20** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.55** Access. **11.00** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **11.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20** On Benefits: UK's Most Hated Woman? (R) **1.15** On Benefits: Desperately Seeking Stardom. (R) **2.15** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **3.15** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.15** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords: Revisited 2. (R) **5.10** Can't Pay Special: Big Family Bust Up. (R)

6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. The agents try to recover more than £12,000 owed by a jeweller to one of his suppliers, but as the tension mounts, the debtor violently lashes out at one of the officers. Meanwhile, agents in London chase up more than £5,000 owed by a tenant to her former landlord for rent arrears, and also attempt to retrieve over £6,000 owed by a property developer. (R)

7.10 NCIS: Los Angeles. The team is forced to establish whether the gunning down of a man outside the Vietnamese Consulate is an isolated incident or a terrorist attack.

8.00 NCIS. The agents quickly close a seemingly cut-and-dried case, but as they all leave the office at the end of the day, they each begin to spot flaws in their investigation.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Burton Albion v Leeds United and Sheffield Wednesday v Derby County.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in League One and Two.

10.30 The Funny Side of Growing Up. Johnny Vegas and a variety of well-known British stars take an irreverent look back at the process of growing into adulthood.

11.30 Comedy Bigmouths with Rory Bremner. Ian Stone takes aim at current affairs of the past seven days, with help from Zoe Lyons, Geoff Norcott and Jo Caulfield.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10 Film:** Creep. (2004) **4.35** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **5.00** Access.

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Dan Cruickshank: At Home with the British **8.00** Tankies: Tank Heroes of World War II **9.00 Film:** Department Q: A Conspiracy of Faith (2016) **10.45** Top of the Pops: 1983 **12.00** Sinatra: All or Nothing at All **1.55** Sings the Great American Songbook **2.55** Duets at the BBC **3.55** Close

ITV2
11.55 Take Me Out **1.00** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.35 Film:** See Spot Run (2001) **2.35** FYI Daily **2.40 Film:** See Spot Run (2001) **3.30 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **4.30** FYI Daily **4.35 Film:** Hotel Transylvania (2012) **5.15 Film:** The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **6.20** FYI Daily **6.25 Film:** The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (2013) **8.25** Scorpion **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent **10.25** Celebrity Juice **11.10** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.05 Film:** That Awkward Moment (2014) **2.05** FYI Daily **2.20 Film:** That Awkward Moment (2014) **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.45 Agatha Christie's Marple **1.45** An Audience with Victoria Wood **2.55** Housewife, 49 **4.55 Film:** The Queen (2006) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00 Film:** The Queen (2006) **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Lewis **1.05** Wycliffe **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
11.55 Pawn Stars **2.10** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **3.45 Film:** Shalako (1968) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50 Film:** Shalako (1968) **6.00** It's Not Rocket Science **7.00** Fierce **8.00** The Chase Celebrity Special **9.05 Film:** Patriot Games (1992) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Patriot Games (1992) **11.25 Film:** Exit Wounds (2001) **12.25** FYI Daily **12.30 Film:** Exit Wounds (2001) **1.35** Minder **2.35** Tommy Cooper **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.30 The Goldbergs **12.30 Film:** Bridge to Terabithia (2007) **2.30 Film:** We Bought a Zoo (2011) **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** American Reunion (2012) **11.15** Gogglebox **12.50** Rude Tube: Ultimate Champions **1.55** Tattoo Fixers **2.55** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.40** Black-ish **4.00** The Mindy Project

Film4
11.00 Chalet Girl (2011) **1.00** Rio 2 (2014) **3.00** St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **5.05** Fantastic Four (2005) **7.10** Airplane! (1980) **9.00** The Day After Tomorrow (2004) **11.20** Dog Soldiers (2002)

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SUNDAY'S TV APRIL 23

CHOICE

Robson Green (left)

Grantchester (ITV, 9pm)

New series. The return of the detective drama set in the 1950s, starring James Norton and Robson Green. Sidney receives a series of anonymous phone calls, which he realises may be linked to a series of murders in which the victims were all important community figures killed by someone who leaves dead birds as a grisly calling card. The threat forces Sidney to question whether he can reconcile his relationship with Amanda and his calling as a vicar. Leonard bonds with Hilary as she cares for her dying father, while Geordie's investigation of the killings leads him to a mysterious home for people with disabilities.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **8.30** London Marathon. Live coverage of the 37th staging of the annual event. **3.00** BBC News; Weather. **3.15** Regional Programme. **4.30** Points of View. **4.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. The team explores County Durham, where Matt Baker demonstrates how to make a traditional regional dish and Ellie Harrison takes a trip up the River Tees. Sean Fletcher meets a boy scout pack involved in wildlife projects, Tom Heap reports on fly tipping, and Adam Henson meets beef farmers who feed their cows on grass alone. Including weather for the week ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Senate House in Bloomsbury, Britain's oldest skyscraper and administrative centre of the University of London. Items under valuation include the hoof of a horse that fought in the Battle of Balaclava, a collection of stained glass panels that were recovered from a skip, and a diamond and platinum bracelet.

9.00 Line of Duty. DCI Roz Huntley struggles to allay her husband's suspicions and AC12 find a new angle to pursue their case against her in the penultimate episode of Jed Mercurio's police drama.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Burnley v Manchester United at Turf Moor and Liverpool v Crystal Palace at Anfield.

11.20 Match of the Day: The FA Cup. Arsenal v Manchester City. Action from the concluding semi-final at Wembley Stadium, as the line-up for the showpiece match was confirmed.

11.50 The Women's Football Show. Eilidh Barbour presents a look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.

12.30 I'm Different: Let Me Drive. **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **7.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **7.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

6.00 The London Marathon Highlights. Ore Oduba presents action from the 37th staging of the annual event, which saw tens of thousands of runners take on the famous 26.2-mile course.

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Mohammad introduces coverage of the final session on day nine at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where two more second-round matches continue. Eight frames are scheduled to take place on both tables, with the players returning to the green baize having started their matches this morning.

8.00 Top Gear. Another helping of four-wheel features, including test drives and reports on the latest models, plus a celebrity taking to the show's test track in Star in a Reasonably Priced Car.

9.00 The Crucible: 40 Golden Snooker Years. Steve Davis goes back to the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield to celebrate 40 years of the world snooker championship, talking to some of the players forever ingrained in the sport's history. The venue has become the home of snooker since the championships moved there in 1977, helping to create memorable moments and scenes of drama that live on to this day. Featuring interviews with former champions Stephen Hendry and Dennis Taylor, six-time runner-up and fans' favourite Jimmy White, and celebrity snooker addicts Richard Osman and Stephen Fry.

10.00 The Rack Pack. Comedy drama based on the glory days of professional snooker in the 1980s and the rivalry between Alex "Hurricane" Higgins and Steve Davis. (R)

11.30 Snooker: The World Championship.

12.20 Snooker: World Championship Extra. **2.20** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.15** Holby City. (R) **4.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Scooby. (R) **6.35** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.30** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.55** NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Countrywise: Guide to Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00 Film:** Carry On Again Doctor. (1969) **12.45** ITV News; Weather. **12.55** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **1.55** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **3.15 Film:** You Only Live Twice. (1967) **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Emmerdale's Natalie Anderson (Alicia), actress Patsy Kensit, broadcaster Esther Rantzen and singer-presenter Brian McFadden take on a trivia expert for charity. Bradley Walsh hosts. (R)

7.00 Bigheads. New series. Jason Manford hosts the comedy game show in which contestants compete in a series of bizarre physical challenges while wearing giant model heads of celebrities.

8.00 The Durrells. New series. Louisa tries to raise some money by selling homemade food, which attracts the attention of another Englishman. However, a former lover threatens the family's plans.

9.00 Grantchester. New series. Sidney receives a series of anonymous phone calls, which he realises may be linked to a series of murders in which the victims were all important community figures.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Lethal Weapon. When a million dollar casino heist takes a deadly turn, Riggs befriends the only credible witness – an eight-year-old boy – and takes him into his care. Clayne Crawford stars. (R)

11.20 The Nightly Show Best Bits. Highlights of the final week, with Dermot O'Leary presenting topical monologues, studio games, celebrity guests, stand-up and video clips. Last in the series.

11.50 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R)

12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 The King of Queens. (R) **6.45** The King of Queens. (R) **7.10** The King of Queens. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30 Film:** Robots. (2005) Animated adventure, with the voice of Ewan McGregor. **3.20 Film:** Mission: Impossible. (1996) Action thriller, starring Tom Cruise. **5.25** George Clarke's Old House, New Home. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

6.50 Film: Thor. (2011) The Norse god of thunder is banished from his own world when his arrogance puts the kingdom on the brink of war. He is sent to present-day Earth, where he is forced to live among humans without his supernatural powers, but must regain his abilities to defend his new home against his evil brother. Kenneth Branagh's fantasy adventure based on the Marvel comics, starring Chris Hemsworth, Natalie Portman, Tom Hiddleston and Anthony Hopkins. Edited for language.

9.00 The Island with Bear Grylls. New series. The fourth series of the survival challenge takes on a new approach, featuring two teams from different generations who are marooned on separate islands to see which age group is better able to cope with hardship. The older group, led by 66-year-old Frank, get off to a good starts and soon manage to light a fire. However, the other team, under the command of its youngest member 18-year-old Freddie, get lost in the dense jungle and spend days trying to purify drinking water while suffering from exhaustion and dehydration.

10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.00 Man Made Planet: Earth from Space. Tim Peake and some of his fellow astronauts make use of full-profile images of Earth to detail the remarkable impact human civilisation has had on the planet's landscape. (R)

12.00 Film: The Sessions. (2012) **1.45** The Last Leg. (R) **2.40** Location, Location, Location. (R) **3.35** Gillette World Sport. **4.00** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **4.25** Mobil 1 The Grid. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Mr Men. **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.35** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.55** Olly the Little White Van. **7.00** Olly the Little White Van. **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.20** Blaze and the Monster Machines. **7.45** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **7.55** Wissper. (R) **8.10** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.25** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **8.50** Little Princess. (R) **9.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.45** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.20** Access. **10.25** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.20** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.55** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.55 Film:** The Deep End of the Ocean. (1999) Drama, starring Michelle Pfeiffer. **3.00** Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild. (R) **4.00** Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild. (R) **5.00** Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild. (R)

6.00 Yorkshire: A Year in the Wild. As winter takes its toll, cameras follow grey seal pups at Ravenscar Beach, and the progress of many short-eared owls that land on the moors. (R)

6.50 5 News Weekend.

6.55 Film: U-571. (2000) American forces board a stricken Nazi submarine at the height of the Second World War in the hope of seizing an Enigma coding machine, but German reinforcements arrive, forcing them to flee in the unfamiliar craft. Action adventure, starring Matthew McConaughey, Harvey Keitel, Bill Paxton and Jon Bon Jovi. Edited for language. Includes 5 News Update at 7.55pm.

9.00 Film: 3 Days to Kill. (2014) Premiere. A CIA agent learns he is dying, and decides to quit the agency so he can spend his last few months trying to rebuild his relationship with his estranged daughter. He is tempted to go back on his word when an old colleague offers him an experimental drug that could save his life – if he agrees to carry out one last mission. Action thriller, starring Kevin Costner, Amber Heard and Hailee Steinfeld. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm.

11.05 Film: Chaos. (2005) Crime thriller, starring Jason Statham.

1.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** Body of Proof. (R) **4.00** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 The Sun **8.00** The Moon **9.00** Horizon: Seeing Stars **10.00** The Sky at Night **11.00** K2: The Killer Summit: Storyville **12.20** The Sun **1.25** The Moon **2.20** K2: The Killer Summit: Storyville **3.45** Close

ITV2

1.00 2Awesome **1.05** 2Awesome: Guidance **2.05** 2Awesome: LA Story **2.20** 2Awesome: Side Effects **2.55** Best of You've Been Framed! Gold **3.55** Britain's Got Talent **5.15** Britain's Got More Talent **6.15 Film:** The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) **7.15** FYI Daily **7.20 Film:** The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) **9.00** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25** The Cleveland Show **1.25** The Vampire Diaries **2.15** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.20 Film: Columbo: Short Fuse (1972) **12.55** Foyle's War **3.00** Our Queen at 90 **5.00** When Phillip Met Prince Philip: 60 Years of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Morecambe and Wise Forever **10.00** Ruth Rendell's Thirteen Steps Down **12.05** Wycliffe **1.15** A Touch of Frost **3.00** May the Best House Win **4.40** In Loving Memory **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

12.45 Film: Shalako (1968) **1.50** FYI Daily **1.55 Film:** Shalako (1968) **3.00 Film:** The Man from the Alamo (1953) **4.00** FYI Daily **4.05 Film:** The Man from the Alamo (1953) **4.40 Film:** The Hanging Tree (1959) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45 Film:** The Hanging Tree (1959) **6.55** Fishing Impossible **9.00** Benidorm **10.05 Film:** The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad! (1988) **11.10** FYI Daily **11.15 Film:** The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad! (1988) **11.50** BRDC Formula 3 Championship Highlights **12.55** Fifth Gear **1.55** Paula Radcliffe: Sports Life Stories

E4

4.00 Film: Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (2010) **6.20** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **12.05** E4's Tattoo Artist of the Year **1.10** Celebrity First Dates **2.15** Naked Attraction

Film4

11.00 Flight of the Navigator (1986) **1.00** The Princess Diaries (2001) **3.15** The Borrowers (1997) **5.00** Rat Race (2001) **7.10** Airplane II: The Sequel (1982) **9.00** The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1 (2014) **11.20** Friends with Benefits (2011) **1.30** The Players (2012)

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PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Welcome to the Jungle, Channel 5, 11.05pm
A bounty hunter is sent into the depths of the Brazilian rainforest to locate a prominent businessman's son, but ends up trying to find a legendary artefact before a crook gets his hands on it. Action comedy, starring Dwayne Johnson, Seann William Scott and Christopher Walken, and an uncredited cameo by Arnold Schwarzenegger. (2003)

TUESDAY
Kidnapping Lizzie: Nightmare Visions, Channel 5, 3.15pm
When 15-year-old Lizzie is kidnapped, her amicably divorced parents Judith and Martin are devastated when the police can find no trace of her. A psychic comes forward claiming to know the teenager's whereabouts, but it soon becomes clear she has an agenda of her own. Thriller, starring Nadia Bjorlin, Richard Ruccolo and Vanessa Evigan. (2016)

Fright Night, Friday, BBC1, 11.55pm

WEDNESDAY
Running for Her Life, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Amateur triathlete Alison Wynn hires a controversial trainer who uses hypnotherapy as a training technique and begins to improve physically, but the return of repressed memories takes a toll on her family life. Alison's daughter soon grows concerned and works to save her mother from the psychologically-manipulative coach. (2016)

THURSDAY
Deadly Departure, Channel 5, 3.15pm
The family of FBI agent Sarah Plummer are taken hostage while she is on a flight to Washington, DC. While on the flight, she meets a mysterious stranger seated beside her, and is forced to make a decision that could cost her the lives of her husband and 12-year-old son. Action, starring Dina Meyer. (2016)

FRIDAY
Fright Night, BBC1, 11.55pm
A teenager realises his new neighbour is a vampire, but cannot convince anyone of the danger they are in. He turns to a magician with a horror-themed Las Vegas show to help him. Comedy horror remake, with Anton Yelchin and Colin Farrell. (2011)

Dave feels the pressure to bring the killer to justice

On August 22, 2007, 11-year-old Rhys Jones was walking home from football practice in the Croxteth Park area of Liverpool when he was shot in the back by hooded youth riding a silver mountain bike aiming at members of a rival mob.

Rhys' mum Melanie rushed to the scene when she heard what had happened, but by the time she had reached him, he was unconscious.

Paramedics tried for over a hour and a half to resuscitate him, but Rhys was later pronounced dead at Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

As well as being the star player for his team, Rhys was a dedicated supporter of Everton FC, and had a season ticket along with his father and brother.

The club's players laid a floral tribute, boots and shirts at the scene of the crime, while players, staff and fans paid tribute to him in a minute-long applause at the home game against Blackburn Rovers three days after his death.

Over 2,500 mourners attended Rhys' funeral at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral on September 6, with Everton footballer Alan Stubbs reading from the Bible during the service.

In the days, weeks and months following Rhys' death, more than 300 police officers and gun crime specialists were being deployed in the hunt for his killer.

This new drama chronicles the tragedy which shook the city of Liverpool and the nation as a whole, and looks at how Rhys' killer, Sean Mercer, and his associates were finally caught and prosecuted.

Liverpudlian actor Stephen Graham (Boardwalk Empire, This is England and Taboo) leads the cast as Detective Superintendent Dave Kelly, who led the investigation into Rhys's murder on behalf of Merseyside Police.

Sinead Keenan and Bryan F O'Byrne play Rhys's grieving parents Melanie and Steve.

In tonight's first episode, DS Kelly is charged with bringing Rhys' teenage killer to justice, but although the assailant's identity is well known, finding the evidence to charge him proves to be a far more difficult challenge.

The show's writer and executive producer Jeff Pope has made his name with this type of dark, real-life drama.

As well as penning the scripts for Mrs Biggs, about Great Train Robber Ronnie Biggs' wife, and The Widower about serial murderer Malcolm Webster, he also exec-produced Appropriate Adult exploring the crimes of Fred and Rosemary West.

For Little Boy Blue, Pope and the cast and crew have recreated the moving moment when Rhys' parents and brother bravely lined up in front of the crowd at Goodison Park to pay tribute to the murdered boy.

With the Z Cars theme playing as they walked onto the pitch, applause rang out around the stadium for a one-minute tribute in his memory.

Stephen Graham stars in Little Boy Blue, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby
BBC2, 9pm
Giles Coren and Monica Galetti work at Fogo Island Inn, which is sited on a rocky outpost off the northeast coast of the island of Newfoundland in Canada and pays homage to the settlers who arrived from Ireland and Devon to fish for cod – with most islanders still having Irish or West Country accents. Housekeepers Cynthia and Lori rope Giles into a community boat race, while Monica spends time with local guide Norm, who reveals surprising the secrets behind growing the perfect potato for use in the hotel.

TUESDAY
Anthony Joshua: The Road to Klitschko
BBC1, 10.45pm
It is the most eagerly anticipated bout of the year, and Saturday's fight for the IBF, WBA and IBO heavyweight crowns at Wembley Stadium will be watched by 90,000 people – a post-war record for a boxing event in Britain. Joshua has 18 knockouts from as many fights since turning pro in 2013, while Klitschko has been pro for 21 years now and has 64 wins and four defeats. The Brit, who won a gold medal at the London 2012 Olympics, has said the fight 'marks the highest point of my climb through the professional rank,' while the Ukrainian, who turned 41 last month, has admitted he is taking on 'the best of the young generation.' So who will come out on top over 12 rounds in London at the weekend? This insightful portrait shows Joshua's preparations for the big fight.

WEDNESDAY
How to Live Mortgage Free with Sarah Beeny
Channel 4, 8pm
Some people might think it's easy to live mortgage free with Sarah Beeny – you just move in and let her pay the bills using her Property Ladder money. But seeing as we can't all fit in her spare room, she's meeting people around the country who have managed to buy their own home without racking up huge debts. This week, that includes a twentysomething couple who are building their first home together on the back of an agricultural trailer for £25,000 and a woman in West Yorkshire who managed to convert three derelict garages into a stunning work and living space for just £12,000. We also hear from the couple who halved their building costs by creating their two-bed home inside some shipping containers.

Anthony Joshua: The Road to Klitschko, Tuesday, BBC1, 10.45pm

THURSDAY
Mind Over Marathon
BBC1, 9pm
Nick Knowles presents the conclusion of the two-part documentary following a group of runners with mental health issues as they train for the London Marathon. The remaining runners attempt longer and longer distances and even travel to Wales for a mountain run. They are taking part in the marathon with Heads Together, a campaign led by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry - and the royal trio turn up to a training session to meet the runners and hear their stories. It proves a massive boost to the runners, but will it be enough to get them to the finishing line?

The Last Kingdom
BBC2, 9pm
Aethelflaed goes missing, and her newlywed husband Aethelred returns to Winchester to deliver the news to Alfred. With the realm in chaos, Odda finds himself questioning whether the will of his king and the good of the kingdom might now be at odds. Having dispatched his own son for failing to remain loyal to the crown in the past, will Odda now follow his lead and turn against Alfred? Meanwhile, Uhtred returns home to Gisela, and tries to uncover the truth about Athelflaed's disappearance by his own means. However, own actions once again come back to haunt him when he finally comes face-to-face with Sigefrid, the Viking warlord he mutilated during his campaign in Northumbria. Confronted with an impossible decision, Uhtred suddenly finds the future of Wessex resting on his shoulders. Historical drama, starring Alexander Dreymon.

FRIDAY
Lethal Weapon
ITV, 9pm
Strong-willed viewers may still be working their way through their Easter eggs but it's Christmas in California, and the precinct is getting ready to celebrate. However, the festive mood is ruined when the officers are called to investigate a murder that's been linked to Eddie Flores, the deranged nephew of an infamous drug lord who has run-up against Riggs before. That's not the only ghost of Christmas past that's haunting the volatile cop.

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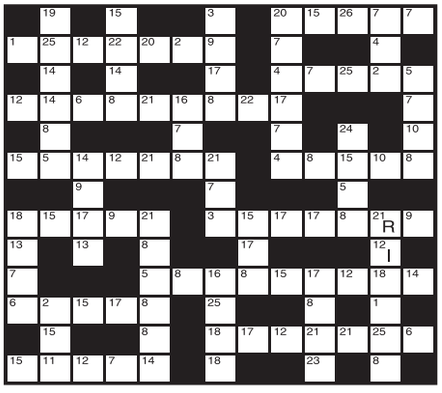
BRAIN GYM

No.426

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



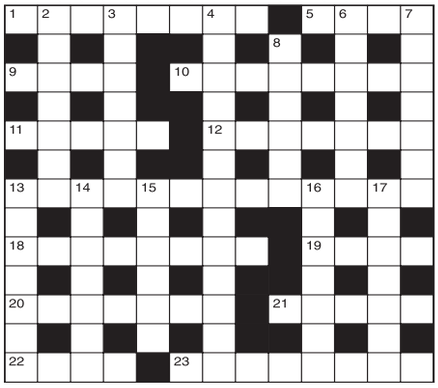
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21 R
9	22
10	23
11	24
12 I	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
S	V	R	D	G	Y	E	H	T	Q	J	C	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
W	O	F	A	U	K	I	B	P	N	L	X	M

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Traffic sign erected by the socialists? (4,4)
5. Alternative letters for flex (4)
9. Clever - gets blockhead to take drink round (4)
10. Matches won't work? (8)
11. Command a class (5)
12. Music for when students have fun? (7)
13. Will serve as a gift at this time (3,3,7)
18. Royal Automobile Club cared about record of runners (4,4)
19. Eager to help about five (4)
20. Carefully look at returned axe belonging to me (7)
21. Questionable - like an angler's tale? (5)
22. Quantity thus given to the first person (4)
23. The usual flag (8)

Down

2. Prohibition - leave when you've got me back to the bar! (7)
3. Excuse before biblical quotation (7)
4. Ideal prospects, despite being tense after 13? (6,7)
6. Former 8 period (3-4)
7. Cut up little Diana's religious group (7)
8. Not a better half? (6)
13. Counterfeiting blacksmiths? (7)
14. To get back could be a miracle (7)
15. The C-i-C is extremely busy (6)
16. Ocean flier arrived as bride changed (7)
17. Therein both are excluded (7)

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Odd (8)
5. Just (4)
9. Bill of fare (4)
10. Seemed (8)
11. Less (5)
12. Entangle (7)
13. Sympathy (6-7)
18. Completely (8)
19. Large town (4)
20. Disorder (7)
21. Rebuffs (5)
22. Unintelligent (4)
23. Critic (8)

Down

2. Hermit (7)
3. Strange (7)
4. Cherished thing (5,2,3,3)
6. Deductively (1,6)
7. Danger signal (3,4)
8. Weak (6)
13. Inundated (7)
14. To the letter (7)
15. East (6)
16. A permit (7)
17. Memorable (7)

Sudoku

5		9		1				
	3		7				5	1
			5		9	2		
1		3	4	2				
8						6		3
		5		3	6	7		2
	1	6	9		4			
4				8			7	
			2	7		5		4

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	7	4	6	8	9	1	2	3
8	3	9	4	2	1	7	5	6
6	2	1	7	5	3	4	9	8
4	6	2	5	7	8	3	1	9
3	9	7	1	6	2	8	4	5
1	5	8	9	3	4	2	6	7
7	4	3	2	9	5	6	8	1
2	8	5	3	1	6	9	7	4
9	1	6	8	4	7	5	3	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Impact; 4 Knocks; 9 Steering wheel; 10 Crossed; 11 Elude; 12 Adore; 14 Debar; 18 Tarts; 19 Decline; 21 Window cleaner; 22 Dreads; 23 Stalls.
Down: 1 Insect; 2 Preponderance; 3 Cards; 5 Nowhere; 6 Coeducational; 7 Solver; 8 Anode; 13 Respond; 15 Stowed; 16 Edict; 17 Hearts; 20 Crest.
QUICK - Across: 1 Impose; 4 Compel; 9 Pervasiveness; 10 Drastic; 11 Raise; 12 Adore; 14 Undue; 18 Class; 19 Excused; 21 Accident-prone; 22 Enlist; 23 Arrest.
Down: 1 Impede; 2 Part and parcel; 3 Smart; 5 Overrun; 6 Precious stone; 7 Lessen; 8 Since; 13 Resides; 15 Scrape; 16 Means; 17 Advent; 20 Caper.

Quiz

1. What does the Mohs scale measure?
2. With which art form is Norman Rockwell associated?
3. From which drink is Calvados distilled?
4. Which actress was born Emilie Charlotte le Breton?
5. What is Europe's largest inland port?
6. Which group of plants has blue-green, yellow-green and gold-brown varieties?
7. Of which church are the sacred writings called the Divine Principle?
8. In which TV series did Lionel Stander play Max?
9. Whom did Idi Amin depose in 1971?
10. Of which ocean is the Beaufort Sea a section?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 New Zealand; 2 Prince Charles; 3 Partridge; 4 Minerva; 5 Robert Schumann; 6 Flushing; 7 Onion; 8 French; 9 Macaque; 10 The Warner Brothers.

Niner: UNIVERSAL

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

83412 gives a Swedish actress,
5249 gives a British actress,
42167927 gives a Romanian-born American actor.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Why it's the Bel-gium of the ball

AS a man who avoids buying clothes until his jeans are almost threadbare, my sense of fashion could be described as inept.

I know vintage handbags can be a serious investment and Jimmy Choo is a shoemaker. But that's about it. So as my train rolls into Antwerp, Belgium's second city and one of Europe's biggest fashion and design hubs, I begin to wish I'd invested a bit more time and effort in my wardrobe.

Fortunately, the city's sense of style extends way beyond clothing. In terms of both architecture – and attitude – Antwerp, I soon discover, is seriously cool.

The journey to Antwerp takes three hours from London via Brussels on the Eurostar, so it's within relatively easy, hassle-free reach.

I disembark at the striking Antwerp Central Station, rated as one of the most beautiful train stations in the world for its striking stone and marble interior. Although originally built in the late 19th century, it's a mishmash of architectural styles.

Eclectic

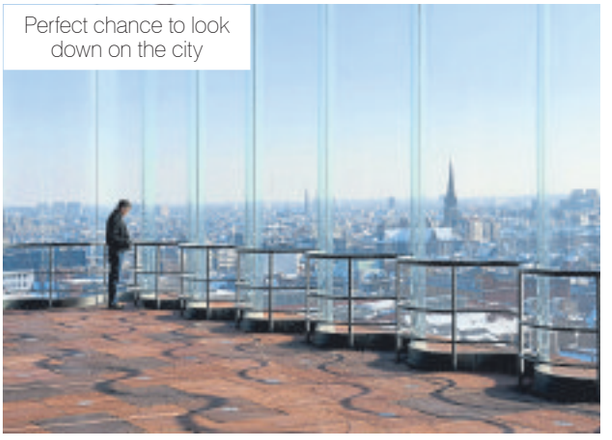
"It's got a few influences," our cycle tour guide, Nicolas de Belder, from Cyclant tells me, as we tour around the city on two wheels.

"Antwerp is very eclectic," he continues, giving me a brief history of the city that's home to around 500,000 inhabitants.

An important trading centre for sugar in the 1500s, it's now best known for its diamond and chemical industries. It's also one of the busiest ports in Europe and more important to Germany than Hamburg – or so Nicolas claims.

I've learned so much in my brief time in the city already, but there's more to come. Nicolas' lessons extend beyond economics and design, to encompass a thorough explanation on how to take a bike on an escalator.

City slicker – with a clear view of Antwerp



Perfect chance to look down on the city

There are few bridges in Antwerp, making tunnels underneath the river Scheldt the best crossing points. Many are accessed via escalators, and city cyclists learn from a young age that the correct way to carry a bike on these moving stairways is to lock the front wheel against a step, creating a 'T' shape.

I pop out on the river's left bank, a far quieter part of the city with spectacular views across to the old town and Antwerp's port. Rising high above the building tops is the spire of the Gothic Cathedral of Our Lady. The adjacent tower was never finished, only reaching a third of its intended height. In a country as flat as Belgium, anything tall is a major attraction, and Antwerp's cathedral is no exception.

The viewing platform atop the Museum aan de Stroom (MAS), is far more accessible. The building is a prime example of contemporary architecture and reflects the city's trading history and modern industrial focus.

Beer, is ubiquitous in Belgium, so I'm happy to be heading to De Koninck brewery.

It has been pumping out a fine selection of liquid amber since 1833, and the site has evolved to include a butcher, cheesemonger, bakery, chocolate shop and even a cycling store. Refreshingly, there is a ban on any chain retailers.

Back in the city centre, walking off my liquid lunch, I stroll along Schuttershofstraat, where Chanel and Burberry sit alongside local designer stores Natan and Coccodrillo. Perhaps I don't fully appreciate the city's concept stores and trend-setting designs, but what I've discovered in Antwerp is style, innovation and imagination to boot.

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YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING

Superb location for immaculate accommodation

A wonderful detached property, 3 St Mark' Close, Great Wyrley lies in a superb location and has immaculate interiors.

It is for sale through Paul Carr at £385,000 with no chain.

Having central heating and double glazing this impressive family home is finished to a very high standard and early viewing is highly recommended.

The accommodation briefly comprises a spacious lounge with an attractive feature fireplace with a gas fire inset and doors leading into the conservatory, which has underfloor heating and views over the garden. There is a separate dining room, family room and a well appointed kitchen with a range of wall and base units, granite worktops, an integrated dishwasher and microwave, and access to the utility room. To the first floor the impressive master suite has a range of fitted wardrobes and a superb en-suite shower room. There are three further double bedrooms, a study/store room and the family bathroom with a modern white suite.

Outside, the predominantly paved rear garden is designed to be a low maintenance outdoor space and there is a superb oak built covered entertainment area with heaters, lighting and power and provision for a water supply. To the front there is ample off-road parking and access to the garage.

This home lies in a sought after cul-de-sac location, conveniently situated for local amenities, schools and access to transport links.

Paul Carr is the largest estate agent and letting agent in the West Midlands with offices in Aldridge, Boldmere, Brownhills, Burntwood, Erdington, Four Oaks, Great Barr, Great Wyrley, Hamstead, Kingstanding, Streetly and Walmley covering Birmingham, Walsall, Sutton Coldfield, Cannock, Lichfield and South Staffordshire. "Choosing the right estate agent can be the most important decision you make," said a spokesman. "The right agent can make the difference between your property being sold or let quickly and at the right price or not being sold or let at all. Our aim is to make house moving as stress-free as possible by offering a "with you every step of the way" personal service. We'll ensure you get the best possible price in the shortest time."

GREAT WYRLEY £385,000

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY
AGENT: Paul Carr
TEL: 01922 701001
EMAIL: greatwyrley@paulcarrestateagents.co.uk

KEY FEATURES

- Fabulous detached house
- Superb location
- Immaculate interiors
- Breakfast kitchen & family room
- Garden with covered entertainment area

She's sold

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- **Professional accredited local agent service**
- **Free valuation**
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- **Registered house hunters**
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If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.

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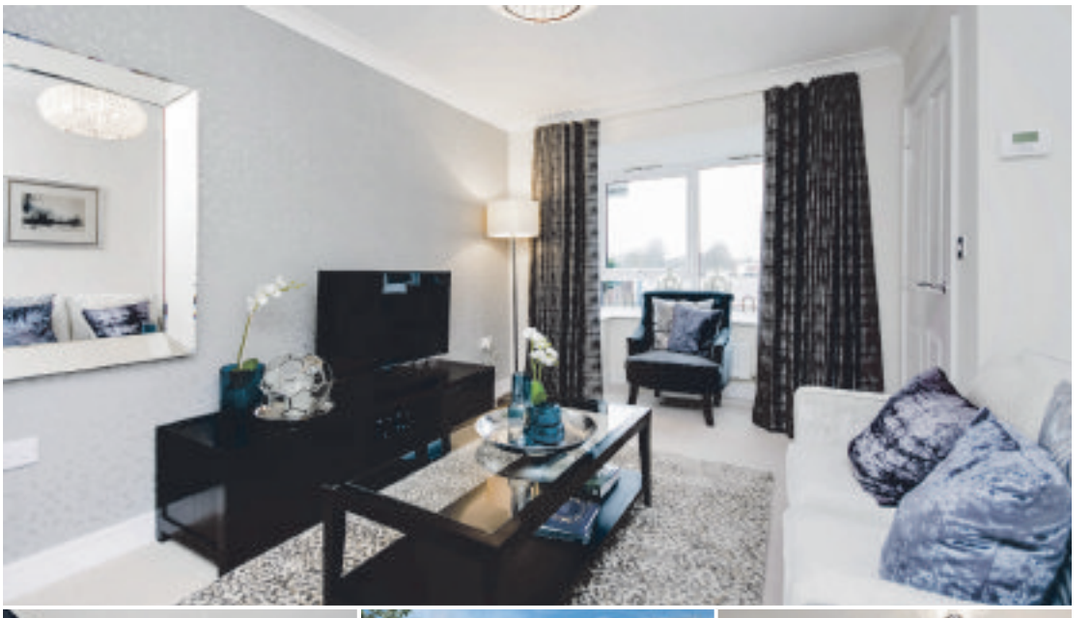

CGI of The Elvedon 2 bedroom and photographs of the showhome at Waterside Place. Elevations and finishes may vary. *Carpets available subject to terms, conditions and a completion date by 30th June 2017. **Help to buy available upon request subject to terms and conditions.

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*offer ends 30/4/17

Attractive two bedroom semi in Cannock on the market

CANNOCK
£129,995 <<<

Overlooking green space to the front, this two-bedroomed semi-detached house in Wellington Drive, Cannock is for sale through DB Roberts at £129,995.

Located within a popular area of Cannock it lies near to the town centre on a corner plot.

The standout features of the property include a spacious lounge, a refitted kitchen with gloss units, a utility room, two good sized bedrooms and an upstairs shower room. Further benefits include an enclosed paved rear garden, a recently installed new central heating boiler and double glazing.

The property is well placed to provide easy access to Cannock town centre which offers a wide range of amenities, with both local and national bus and train services.

For further information, or to book a viewing, contact DB Roberts & Partners on 01543 469966 or visit www.dbroberts.co.uk

Family home in a sought-after area

HEATH HAYES
£215,000

This fabulous extended family home in Langtree Close, Heath Hayes has five bedrooms.

In a sought after area, it is for sale through Jayman at £215,000.

A well presented detached family home, its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, a lounge, kitchen, utility room, a downstairs shower room, downstairs bedroom, four bedrooms and a house bathroom. The property also has an integral garage, multiple off road parking to the front and a rear garden. The property is approx 1000 square foot.

In more detail the lounge has a gas fireplace with a wooden surround and a tiled hearth. Downstairs bedroom five has double glazed patio doors to the garden and laminate flooring. The downstairs shower room includes a WC.

Call 01543 505566.

Keable Homes Ltd
Sales & Lettings

01543 468847
Suite 1
Watling Chambers,
214 Watling Street,
Cannock , WS11 OBD

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Sat 9.00am-2.00pm

sade.keable@keablehomes.co.uk

CANNOCK'S Nº1 CHOICE FOR SALES & LETTINGS

HEDNESFORD
CROXLEY DRIVE

Detached | En Suite
Lounge | GCH & DG
Dining Room | Double Garage
Kitchen | Rear Garden
4 Bedrooms | EPC Rating D
Bathroom

£319,950

HEDNESFORD
BROMLEY CLOSE

Semi Detached | Gas Central
House | Heating
Lounge | Double Glazing
Kitchen Diner | Rear Garden
2 Bedrooms | Parking
Bathroom | EPC Rating C

£125,000

CANNOCK
THE CROSSINGS

Unfurnished | Bathroom
End Terrace House | En Suite
Lounge | GCH & DG
Kitchen | Garden
3 Bedrooms | Parking
EPC Rating C

£650 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

CANNOCK
CANNOCK ROAD

Unfurnished | Bathroom
Semi Detached House | GCH & DG
Lounge | Rear Garden
Kitchen | Parking
3 Bedrooms | EPC Rating C

£625 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
BADGERS WAY

Unfurnished | 2 Bedrooms
Detached | Bathroom
Bungalow | GCH & DG
Lounge | Rear Garden
Kitchen | Garage
Conservatory | EPC Rating D

£595 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

WEDGES MILLS
THE MEADOWS

Unfurnished | Guest WC
Town House | GCH & DG
Lounge | Rear Garden
Kitchen | Parking
2 Bedrooms | EPC Rating C
Bathroom

£575 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

CHURCHBRIDGE
FORGE CLOSE

Unfurnished | En Suite
First Floor Flat | Heating
Lounge | Double Glazing
Kitchen | Parking
2 Bedrooms | EPC Rating C
Bathroom

£575 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

GREAT WYRLEY
ALPHA WAY

Unfurnished | Bathroom
Terrace House | GCH & DG
Kitchen | Rear Garden
Dining Room | EPC Rating D
2 Bedrooms

£550 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
PRIMROSE MEADOW

Unfurnished | Bathroom
Semi Detached House | GCH & DG
Lounge | Rear Garden
Kitchen | Parking
2 Bedrooms | EPC Rating C

£550 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

CHESLYN HAY
CROSS STREET

Unfurnished | Bathroom
Duplex Flat | GCH & DG
Lounge | Parking
Dining Room | EPC Rating D
Kitchen
2 Bedrooms

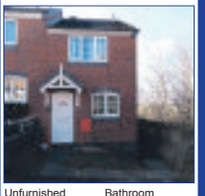
£550 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

GREAT WYRLEY
WALSALL ROAD

Unfurnished | Gas Central
First Floor Flat | Heating
Lounge | Double Glazing
Kitchen | Parking
3 Bedrooms | EPC Rating D
Bathroom

£525 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
HOLT CRESCENT



Unfurnished | Bathroom
Semi Detached House | Heating
Lounge | Double Glazing
Kitchen | Garden
2 Bedrooms | Parking
EPC Rating E

£525 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
DEAVALL WAY

Unfurnished | Bathroom
Semi Detached House | Heating
Lounge | Double Glazing
Kitchen | Garden
2 Bedrooms | Parking
EPC Rating E

£525 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

CANNOCK
CHALFONT COURT

Unfurnished | Gas Central
First Floor Flat | Heating
Lounge | Double Glazing
Kitchen | Parking
2 Bedrooms | EPC Rating C
Bathroom

£495 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

HEATH HAYES
CANNOCK ROAD

Unfurnished | Gas Central
First Floor Flat | Heating
Lounge | Double Glazing
Kitchen | Parking
2 Bedrooms | EPC Rating C
Bathroom

£495 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

CANNOCK
CEMETERY ROAD

Unfurnished | Bathroom
Terrace House | Gas Central
Lounge | Heating
Dining Room | Double Glazing
Kitchen | Garden
3 Bedrooms | EPC Rating D

£475 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

NORTON CANES
NORTON TERRACE

Part Furnished | Gas Central
Town House | Heating
Lounge | Allocated Parking
Kitchen Diner | EPC Rating C
1 Bedroom
Bathroom

£425 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

WIMBLEBURY
HAMILTON CLOSE

Unfurnished | Heating
Ground Floor Flat | Double Glazing
Open Plan | Parking
Lounge Kitchen | EPC Rating D
1 Bedroom
Shower Room

£360 pcm & FEES - NO DSS

OUR APPLICATION FEE IS £222 Including VAT or £318 Including VAT - DEPENDANT ON CIRCUMSTANCES

DB Roberts

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db roberts

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Don't take our word for it

"Brilliant, brilliant service could not fault the effort in selling my house and helping me find a new home! Would definitely recommend DB Roberts."

Oxford Road Cannock

£105,000

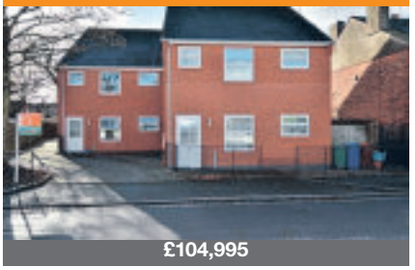
• Two Bedroom Semi Detached • In Need of Some Renovation
• Lounge & Breakfast Kitchen • Central Heating System
• Driveway & Garage • EPC = D

Langholm Drive Cannock

£187,500

• Three Bed Semi-Detached • Garage & Driveway
• South Facing Rear Garden • Downstairs WC
• Open Plan Lounge Diner & Conservatory • EPC = C

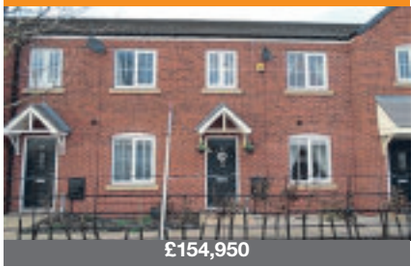
Union Street Bridgtown



£104,995

• First Floor Maisonette • Spacious 20ft Lounge Diner
• Two Well Proportioned Bedrooms • Ensuite Shower Room
• Must Be Viewed • EPC = B

Lakeside Boulevard Cannock



£154,950

• Three Bed Mid-Terrace • Garage & Allocated Parking
• Kitchen DIner • Guest WC
• Rear Garden • EPC = C

Dundalk Lane Cheslyn Hay

£185,000

• Semi Detached Dorma Bungalow • Three Bedrooms
• Two Reception Rooms • Fitted Kitchen
• Gardens, Parking and Garage • EPC = D

Lapwing Close Cheslyn Hay

•Village Location
•Semi Detached House
•Three Bedrooms
•Spacious Lounge
•Conservatory
•Stylish Fitted Kitchen
•First Floor Bathroom
•EPC = C

£184,995

Woodford End Chadsmoor

£60,000

• One Bedroom Maisonette • 50% Shared Ownership
• Refitted White Gloss Kitchen • Double Bedroom & Bathroom
• Ideal First Time Purchase • EPC = D

Sandy Lane Rugeley

£260,000

• Immaculate Detached Property • Three Bedrooms
• Breakfast Kitchen • Ensuite To Master
• Two Reception Rooms • EPC = C

Beacon Way Wimblebury

£165,000

• Three bedroom semi deatched • Extended to the ground floor
• Sat on a corner plot • Driveway to the front
• Rear Garden • EPC = TBC

Banbury Road Cannock

£170,000

• Four Bed Extended Semi Detached • Loft Conversion
• Driveway to the front • Conservatory
• Rear Garden • EPC = TBC

Instant online valuation

Get an instant property valuation by visiting, www.dbroberts.co.uk

Colliers Way Huntington

£267,500

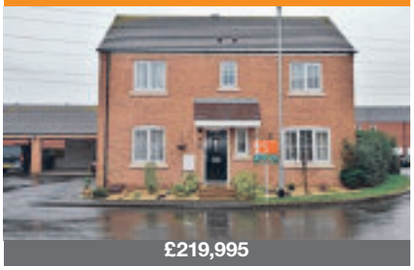
• Five Bedroom Detached • Two En-Suits & Family Bathroom
• Garage & Driveway • Open Plan Klitchen Diner
• Rear Garden • EPC = C

Limepit Lane Huntington

£310,000

• Detached Dormer Bungalow • High Quality Throughout
• 15ft Lounge & Guest WC • Double Bedroom with En Suite
• Two First Floor Double Bedrooms • EPC = C

Packington Mews Bridgtown



£219,995

• Immaculate Detached House • Three Bedrooms
• Lounge & Conservatory • Carport & Corner Plot Position
• En suite Shower Room
• EPC = C

Truro Place Heath Hayes

£239,999

• Three Bedroom Detached • Lounge & Dining Room
• Stylish Modern Kitchen • Impressive 14ft Conservatory
• En suite Shower Room • EPC = B

Hartlebury Close Heath Hayes

£260,000

• Four Bedroom Detached • Two Receptions,Conservatory
• Refitted Shower Room • Cul De Sac Location
• Viewing Essential • EPC = D

Clover Meadows Heath Hayes

£250,000

• Detached Family Home • Lounge & Open Plan Kitchen
• Conservatory & Downstairs WC • Four Bedrooms
• Sought After Location • EPC = E

St. Johns Road Cannock

£219,995

• Detached Family Home • Impressive Lounge Diner
• Refitted Breakfast Kitchen • Three Bedrooms
• Close To Cannock Town Centre • EPC = E

Mill Street Cannock Centre

£229,950

• Superb Four Bedroom Detached • Recently Renovated
• Refitted En Suite Shower Room • 19ft Conservatory
• No Upward Chain • EPC = D

Lansbury Drive Pye Green

•Detached Family House
•Four Well Proportioned Bedrooms
•Breakfast Kitchen
•Downstairs Guest WC
•Utility Room
•Splendid Conservatory
•Must be Viewed
•EPC = TBC

£220,000

New Penkridge Road Cannock

£108,000

• First Floor Apartment • Popular Town Centre Location
• Two Bedrooms & Family Bathroom • Allocated Parking
• Ideally suited for a First Time Buyer • EPC = TBC

Littleworth Road Hednesford

£110,000

• Two Bedroom Mid Terrace • Two Reception Rooms
• Extended Kitchen • Upstairs Bathroom
• Rear Parking & No Chain • EPC =D

Detached property in outstanding position

PENKRIDGE

£375,000 >>>

A detached property in an outstanding position in Francis Green Lane, Penkridge, stands in one of the most desirable roads. Deceptively spacious, it is for sale through Connells at £375,000. Call 01543 500923.

Well maintained and attractively presented home

RAWNSLEY

£220,000

Attractively presented and well maintained, this four-bedroomed detached house in St George Drive, Rawnsley, is for sale at £220,000.

It is being sold by estate agent Chase Independent.

It has an entrance porch, a lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, guest WC, four bedrooms, one en-suite, a family bathroom, garage and driveway and front and rear gardens.

The utility room has plumbing for a washing machine and dishwasher.

Call Chase Independent on 01543 504234.

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Detached house in a top area has been improved

This executive detached house in Olde Hall Lane, Great Wyrley, lies in a highly sought-after area.

It is for sale through Marwood Homes at £325,000 with no chain.

The property has three reception rooms with generous space throughout, stands on a corner plot and features a huge conservatory as well as double garage.

GREAT WYRLEY

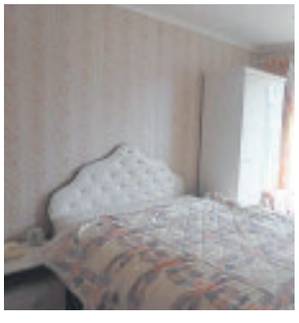
£325,000

Great Wyrley has a diverse range of amenities and excellent commuter links with the M6 toll road linking the midlands motorways, A34, A5 and Landywood railway.

The property briefly comprises a reception hallway, lounge, breakfast kitchen, dining room, study, utility, guest WC and a large conservatory.

On the first floor there are four good size bedrooms, en-suite to the master and a bathroom. Outside there is a driveway, a double garage and front, rear and side gardens. The property also has double glazing and gas central heating.

Call 01543 500700.



Two-bedroom semi-detached bungalow on popular estate

RUGELEY

£140,000 <<<

A two-bedroomed semi-detached bungalow in Avonlea Gardens, Rugeley, lies on a popular residential estate.

It is for sale through Southwells at £140,000.

Close to amenities it has an entrance hall, lounge/dining room, a kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, garage and gardens front and rear.

The property also has double glazing and gas central heating.

The lounge/dining area has a bow window and a fitted gas fire. The kitchen has a door to the side, a fully fitted range of base and wall units and ample work surfaces.

For further information please contact Southwells on 01889 582137.

ESTATE AGENTS SURVEYORS & LETTING AGENTS

Southwells

TEL: 01889 582137

17 Upper Brook Street, Rugeley, Staffs

NEW

Hednesford Road, Rugeley

A Three Bedroom Semi-detached House

- Double Glazed with Gas Central Heating
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Orangery
- Downstairs Bathroom, Family Bathroom & En-Suite
- Parking on Large Driveway and Garage

£265,000

NEW

Rockhouse Drive, Great Haywood

A Four Bedroom Detached Dormer Bungalow

- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Groundfloor Bathroom
- Study & Utility Room
- Verandah & Carport
- Driveway to Front and Enclosed Rear Garden

£259,950

Ti-Arwil, Keystone Lane, Rugeley

Trtaditional 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House

- Part Double Glazed
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen & Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens & Driveway Parking
- Single Car Garage & Outside W.C

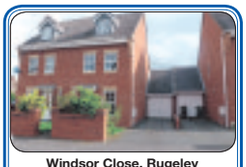
£180,000

Redmond Close, Rugeley

A Five Bedroom Extended Link-Detached House

- UPVC Double Glazing/Gas central Heating
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Garage & Ample Parking

£199,950



Windsor Close, Rugeley

A Three Bedroom, Three Storey, Semi-Detached House

- Double Glazed with Gas Central Heating
- Downstairs W.C
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Driveway Parking & Sing Car Garage
- Front & Rear Gardens

£175,000

Avonlea Gardens, Rugeley

A 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow

- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen & Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Driveway Parking & Garage

£140,000

Coppice Road, Rugeley

A Three Bedroom Semi-Detached House - Large Plot

- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen & Utility Room
- Shower Room & Separate W.C
- Gated Off-Road Parking

£119,950

Moss Green, Rugeley

A First Floor Apartment

- Private Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Garage in a Separate Block

£66,950

Landsbury Road Rugeley

A Three Bedroom Semi Detached House

- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Situated On Large Corner Plot
- Garage
- Fully Enclosed

£118,000

Thinking of Selling?

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TO LET

Upper Brook Street

First Floor Suite Of Offices

- Three Offices
- Storage Area On Second Floor
- Toilet
- Kitchen Area

£3000 P.A.

TO LET

Horsefair, Rugeley

A Three Bedroom Cottage

- Double Glazed & Gas Central Heating
- Kitchen & Utility Room
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Shower Room
- Parking to Rear

£650 PCM

TO LET

Chester Road Rugeley

A 4 Bedroom Executive Detached House

- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Ground Floor WC. Lounge & Dining Room
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Attached Garage. Front and Rear Gardens
- Block Paved Drive with Parking for Several Vehicles

£875PCM

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* terms and conditions apply

Bursnips Road
ESSINGTON

Lovingly restored five bedroom grade II listed detached cottage / Situated on approximately two acres of land / Retained many of its original features

£950,000

Goldhayfields Farm
RUGELEY

Five bedroom detached farmhouse / Breakfast kitchen / Five double bedrooms / Separate utility area / Large en-suite / EPC: F

£650,000

The Old Rectory
RUGELEY

Immaculately Presented Five Bedroom Barn Style Property / Sought After Village Location / Spacious Reception & Bedrooms / Delightful Countryside Views / High Spec Kitchen With Integrated Appliances

Offers in the Region Of £425,000

Chaseley Road
RUGELEY

Four bed luxury detached house / Kitchen-breakfast area / Integral garage / En-suite to master / Block drive for several vehicles

£419,950

Prospect Manor Court
HEDNESFORD

Spacious detached family home with four double bedrooms / Open plan breakfast kitchen / Useful study room / Detached double garage and driveway / Good sized private rear garden

£375,000

Wood Lane
CANNOCK

Impressive five bedroom detached dormer style house / Tastefully decorated throughout / Spacious living & sleeping accommodation / Large reception style conservatory / Detached garage / Drive for

Offers in the Region Of £345,000

Sweetbriar Way
HEATH HAYES

Immaculately presented four bedroom detached house / Set on a large plot with double garage, large rear garden and 6 car driveway / Spacious living & sleeping accommodation

£325,000

Brereton Manor Court
BRERETON

Well presented four bedroom detached house / Sought after cul-de-sac location / Spacious living & sleeping accommodation / Open plan breakfast kitchen / Good sized private rear garden / Driveway

£300,000

St Christopher Close
RAWNSLEY

Immaculately presented four bedroom detached family home / Enivable corner plot in quiet cul-de-sac / Tastefully decorated & finished to high modern standard / Driveway for up to six vehicles /

£295,000

Kingscroft
WIMBLEBURY

Well presented four bedroom detached house / Good sized corner plot down a quiet cul-de-sac / Superb open plan lounge-diner ideal for entertaining / Modern fitted breakfast kitchen

£286,000

Red Lion Lane
NORTON CANES

Four bedroom detached family home / Large plot with a segregated rear courtyard / Modern fitted dining kitchen with a high specification finish

Offers in the Region Of £270,000

Colliers Way
HUNTINGTON

Immaculately Presented Five Bedroom Detached House / Set Over Three Storeys / Five Double Bedrooms / Driveway With Ample Parking / Single Garage / Modern Open Plan Kitchen-Diner

£267,500

Thistledown Drive
HEATH HAYES

Well presented four bedroom detached house / Finished to high standard / Spacious living & sleeping accommodation / Open plan breakfast kitchen / Re-fitted en-suite / Private rear garden

Offers in Excess of £260,000

Clover Meadows
HEATH HAYES

Well presented four bedroom detached house / Large plot at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac / Private South facing rear garden / Spacious lounge & open plan L shaped dining kitchen

Offers in the Region Of £250,000

Bower Lane
ETCHING HILL

Charming two/thee bedroom character property built in the 1800s / Potential building plot / Sought after semi rural location / Quadruple garage

£250,000

Wells Close
RUGELEY

Four Bedroom Detached House / Stunning Views Of Cannock Chase / Good Sized Private Rear Garden / Modern Breakfast Kitchen With NEFF Appliances / Driveway For Two Vehicles

£245,000

Oaken Hurst Avenue
HAWKSYARD

Four bedroom detached house / Set on large corner plot in a sought after area / Spacious living and sleeping accommodation set over three floors / Three double bedrooms and one single

£240,000

Marigold Close
HEATH HAYES

Well presented three bedroom detached house / Set down sought after cul-de-sac / Open plan lounge / Modern fitted breakfast kitchen / South facing private rear garden with conservatory / En-suite to

£230,000

Rowan Close
HUNTINGTON

Four bedroom detached family home / Spacious lounge & open plan kitchen-diner / Set on a good sized corner plot / Private rear garden / NHBC guarantee

Offers in Excess of £220,000

Lupin Drive
HUNTINGTON

Well presented four bedroom town house / Spacious living and sleeping accommodation / Modern fitted breakfast kitchen / Victorian conservatory

Offers in the Region Of £210,000

Green Heath Road
HEDNESFORD

Charming three bedroom character property / Spacious reception rooms and bedrooms / Double garage-workshop plus driveway / Stylish modern re-fitted kitchen and re-fitted bathroom

£210,000

Rudyard Way
BRIDGTOWN

Well presented three bedroom semi detached house / Spacious lounge-diner / Modern fitted kitchen / Good sized bedrooms / Private rear garden / NHBC guarantee / Integral garage & off road parking

£210,000

Ansty Drive
HEATH HAYES

Three bedroom detached house / Well established and sought after residential area / Larger than normal end plot / Good sized lounge

£200,000

Langtree Close
HEATH HAYES

Two bedroom detached bungalow / quiet cul-de-sac / ●●●NO ONWARD CHAIN●●● / quiet cul-de-sac / two double bedrooms Detached garage / Good sized rubber mac driveway with parking for

£190,000

Grange Road
NORTON CANES

Three bedroom semi detached house / Quiet cul-de-sac / Short walk away from Chasewater / Spacious living and sleeping accommodation / Open plan kitchen-diner

£190,000

Chapel Street
HEATH HAYES

Deceptively spacious five bedroom semi-detached house / Set over three floors / Large plot / Double garage / Spacious reception rooms

£185,000

Walsall Road
GREAT WYRLEY

Traditional three bedroom semi detached house / NO ONWARD CHAIN & VACANT POSSESSION / Set back from main road / Good sized front lawn & four car driveway / Extended breakfast kitchen to rear

£180,000

Strauss Drive
HEATH HAYES

Well presented three storey town house / Spacious living & sleeping accommodation / Modern fitted kitchen & bathroom / Victorian conservatory / Private rear garden / Driveway, providing off road

Offers in Excess of £180,000

Glenthorne Drive
GREAT WYRLEY

Three bedroom semi detached house / Open plan lounge-diner / Fitted kitchen with separate breakfast room / Modern conservatory / Good sized private landscaped rear garden / Integral garage &

Offers in the Region Of £176,000

Somerset Avenue
RUGELEY

Immaculately presented three bedroom semi detached house / Tastefully decorated and finished to a high standard / Welcoming reception hallway / Superb new fitted modern kitchen

£175,000

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Grouse Way
HEATH HAYES

Three Bedroom Semi Detached House / Spacious Lounge-Diner / Modern Breakfast Kitchen / En-Suite To Master Bedroom / Private Rear Garden / Driveway For Three Vehicles.

Offers in the Region Of £170,000

Windsor Close
RUGELEY

Well presented three bedroom town house / Set over three floors / Three double bedrooms / Two separate bathrooms / Good sized open plan lounge-diner / Private rear garden / Parking for two vehicles

Offers in Excess of £165,000

Harrow Close
BRERETON

Three bedroom detached house / Modern fitted kitchen & bathroom / NHBC guarantee with 3-4 years remaining / Tastefully decorated lounge-diner,

Offers in Excess of £160,000

Mill Crescent
HEATH HAYES

Well presented three bedroom semi detached house / Quiet sought after cul-de-sac / Modern fitted open plan dining kitchen / Driveway with parking for three vehicles

£150,000

Marconi Place
HEDNESFORD

Three bedroom semi detached house / ●●●APPROVED PLANNING PERMISSION FOR SUBSTANTIAL EXTENSION●●● / NO ONWARD CHAIN / Good sized private rear garden

Offers in Excess of £150,000

Chapel Street
HEATH HAYES

Semi detached character property / Large rear garden ideal for entertaining / Modern breakfast kitchen and bathroom / Two double bedrooms with w/c to the master

£140,000

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Sale Price Achieved	Standard Estate Agent's Fee @ 2.16% Inc VAT	Lovett&Co Estate Agent Fee @ 0.9% Inc VAT	The Savings YOU will make with Lovett&Co.
£105,000	£2,268	£997	£1,271
£150,000	£3,240	£1,425	£1,815
£200,000	£4,320	£1,900	£2,420
£300,000	£6,480	£2,860	£3,630
£500,000	£10,800	£4,760	£6,050

*Standard Estate Agents Fee Staffordshire @2.16% Inc VAT. Source. Rightmove (April 2017)

rightmove.co.uk | Zoopla.co.uk | PrimeLocation.com | the Property Ombudsman

Pinewood Avenue
CANNOCK

Three bedroom semi detached house / Spacious open plan lounge-diner / Modern fitted kitchen and bathroom / Oversized garage and driveway providing off road parking

£135,000

Station Street
CHESLYN HAY

Two bedroom end terraced house / Two spacious reception rooms / Modern fitted shower room / Good sized & charming private rear garden / Cellar

£130,000

Albert Street
CHADSMOOR

Well presented traditional one bedroom bungalow / Large rear garden / New carpets throughout / Modern fitted kitchen and bathroom / Spacious lounge and double bedroom /

£130,000

Huntington Terrace Road
CHADSMOOR

Refurbished two bedroom semi detached bungalow / Deceptively spacious / Off Street parking / Large private rear garden / Spacious lounge / New fitted dining kitchen & bathroom

£129,950

Pheasant Way
HEATH HAYES

Modern sought after development / Modern fitted kitchen & bathroom / Two double bedrooms / Spacious lounge-diner / Off road allocated parking

Offers in Excess of £128,000

Anglesey Street
HEDNESFORD

Two Bedroom End Terraced House / Stunning Communal Gardens / Exclusive Private Mews Development / Spacious Living & Sleeping Accommodation / Modern Kitchen & Bathroom

£125,000

Elliott Close
CANNOCK

Two bedroom end terraced house / Newly fitted kitchen / Spacious lounge / Private rear garden / Allocated parking

£125,000

Bank Street
HEATH HAYES

Two bedroom end terraced house / Modern fitted kitchen and bathroom / Private rear garden / Two good sized reception rooms

£120,000

Cannock Road
CANNOCK

Well presented two bedroom traditional semi detached house / Two double bedrooms / Generous rear garden with parking for up to three vehicles / Rear courtyard area / Storage outbuildings

Guide Price £100,000

Apple Walk
HEATH HAYES

Mid terraced one bedroom house / Situated near to the local nature reserve / Open plan living area / Private front garden and off road parking

£95,000

Barnard Way
CANNOCK

Two bedroom ground floor maisonette / Exciting investment opportunity / Available with a sitting tenant / Rental income of £500 PCM

£87,500

Longacres
HEDNESFORD

Well presented one bedroom first floor maisonette / Modern fitted kitchen & bathroom / Off road parking for one vehicle / Garage for storage / Ideal for first time buyers & investors

£85,000

Park Road
TOWN CENTRE - CANNOCK

Second floor apartment / NO ONWARD CHAIN / Ideal for first time buyers / Allocated parking for one vehicle / EPC: C

Offers in Excess of £80,000

Sandpiper Close
HEDNESFORD

One bedroom ground floor maisonette / Quiet cul-de-sac / Modern fitted kitchen / Modern fitted kitchen / Allocated parking space

Offers in the Region Of £78,500

Apple Walk
HEATH HAYES

VACANT POSSESSION & NO UPWARD CHAIN / Two bedroom apartment / Good sized lounge & bedrooms / off road allocated parking / Allocated parking & communal gardens

£75,000

Brooklyn Road
HEATH HAYES

One bedroom first floor maisonette / Ideal for first time buyers or investors / Very low ground rent, Insurance & maintenance rates / New carpets and new windows

Offers in Excess of £70,000

Bevan Lee Road
CANNOCK

Commercial property; an exciting retail opportunity / Previously a convenience store / Can also be used as hair dresser or pet groomers

Auction Guide Price £65,000

Heath Way
HEATH HAYES

Two bedroom ground floor apartment / NO ONWARD CHAIN / 50% share / Lounge, kitchen and bathroom / One allocated parking space / EPC: B

Offers in Excess of £45,000

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Burntwood Office - £350,000

BURNTWOOD, BOULTON CLOSE

- Executive Detached Family Home — 4
- Immaculately Presented — 2
- No Upward Chain
- Double Garage — D

Great Wyrley Office - £329,950

BLOXWICH, SANSTONE ROAD

- Superb Detached Bungalow — 3
- No Upward Chain — 1
- Fitted Kitchen with Built-In Appliances — C

Burntwood Office - £315,000

HILL RIDWARE, OAKLANDS CLOSE

- Unique detached family residence — 4
- Two kitchens — 3
- Conservatory
- delightful views to the rear — D

Great Wyrley Office - £250,000

CANNOCK, CHURCHBRIDGE,

- Superb Detached House — 4
- Full Width Dining Kitchen — 2
- En-Suite to Master Bedroom
- Detached Garage — B

Great Wyrley Office - £250,000

HEDNESFORD, CORSICAN DRIVE

- Detached Residence — 4
- Corner Position — 1
- Generous Plot
- Double Garage — D

Burntwood Office - £230,000

BURNTWOOD, RUGELEY ROAD

- Link Detached Bungalow — 2
- Prime Location — 1
- Two Good Sized Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain — E

Great Wyrley Office - £225,000

CHESLYN HAY, LEVESON AVENUE

- EXTENDED WELL MAINTAINED SEMI-DETACHED HOUSE — 4
- PRIME VILLAGE LOCATION — 2
- MASTER WITH EN-SUITE — D

Great Wyrley Office - £220,000

GREAT WYRLEY, HILTON LANE

- Traditional Double Bay Detached — 3
- No Upward Chain — 1
- Generous Garden
- Refitted Kitchen — C

Burntwood Office - £175,000

CANNOCK, HAREBELL CLOSE

- Extended Semi-Detached House — 3
- Lounge/Diner — 1
- Extended Kitchen
- Off Road Parking — C

Burntwood Office - £155,000

BURNTWOOD,HAWTHORNE CRES

- Extended Semi-Detached Residence — 3
- 3 Reception Rooms — 1
- Garage To The Rear
- No Upward Chain — E

Burntwood Office - £142.500

BURNTWOOD, COULSON CLOSE

- Semi-detached House — 2
- Double Bedrooms — 1
- Refitted Kitchen
- Rural Views To Front — C

Great Wyrley Office - £106,950

CHURCHBRIDGE, DORNEY PLACE

- First Floor Apartment — 2
- Dual Aspect Balcony — 1
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Allocated Parking — B

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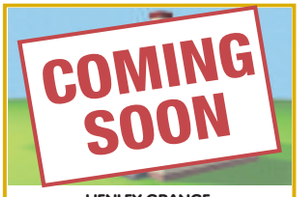
NEW

THOMPSON ROAD
BRERETON

A well presented three bedroomed detached family home in a popular and sought after location. Gas Central Heating and UPVC Double Glazing. Entrance Porch, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen and Conservatory. First Floor Landing, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Driveway to Front and Good sized Garden to rear. EPC RATING - D

£190,000

COMING SOON



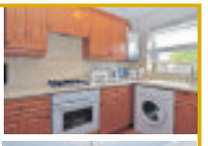
HENLEY GRANGE
ETCHINGHILL

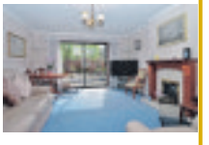
A four bedroomed executive detached family home in a desirable location of Etchinghill, full details to follow.

For more information please contact our Sales Team.

£480,000

NEW





MOOR CROFT , COLTON

A well presented two bedroomed semi detached property with open some views. Gas central heating and UPVC double glazing. Accommodation comprises of Hallway, Guest Cloakroom, Kitchen and Lounge. First Floor Landing with Two Bedrooms and Shower Room. Gardens to front and rear. Parking to front. EPC Rating - D

£160,000

NEW

CANTERBURY DRIVE
RUGELEY

A well presented four bedroomed detached family home in a sought after location. Gas Central Heating and UPVC Double Glazing. Entrance Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen and Utility Room. First Floor Landing. Master Bedroom, En-Suite, Three Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom. Integral Garage, Large Driveway, Garden to Front and Rear. EPC Rating - C

£240,000

NO CHAIN

COMING SOON

RUGELEY ROAD
ARMITAGE

A two bedroomed town house in a village location; ideal for investment. Full details to follow.

To book an early viewing please contact our Sales Team.

£97,995

NEW

LEASOWE CLOSE
GREAT HAYWOOD

A good size four bedroomed detached family home in a popular and sought after village location. Gas Central Heating and UPVC Double Glazed. Porch, Hallway, Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room and Second Reception Room. First Floor Landing Four Bedrooms, Family Bathroom and a Shower Room. Integral Garage and Driveway with Parking. Garden to Rear. EPC TBC.

£289,995

NEW

NO CHAIN

TITHEBARN ROAD
RUGELEY

A four bedroomed dormer bungalow within walking distance to town centre and available with no upward chain. Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating. Entrance Hallway,Kitchen,Lounge,Wet Room and Two Ground Floor Bedrooms. Stairs to two further Bedrooms. Driveway to Garage and Gardens to front and rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC RATING - E

£220,000

COMING SOON

MOSS GREEN
BRERETON

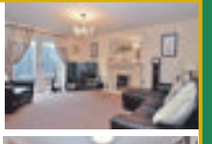
A three bedroomed mid terraced property, full details to follow.

For more information please contact our Sales Team.

£115,000

NEW

NO CHAIN



THE LIMES, SANDY LANE, RUGELEY

A beautifully presented three bedroomed detached family home,within walking distance to town centre and a short distance from Cannock Chase, an area of outstanding natural beauty and offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN.Gas Central Heating and UPVC Double Glazing. EPC RATING - C For Full information please contact our Sales Team.

£260,000

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FORGE ROAD
RUGELEY

50% Shared Ownership or 100% Ownership this two bedroomed End Terrace property located within walking distance to Town Centre and Local Amenities. Electric Heating and Double Glazed. Entrance Hall, Kitchen and Lounge. First Floor Landing, Two Bedrooms and Wet Room. Allocated Parking in Communal Area. EPC RATING - D

£60,000

RUGELEY ROAD
ARMITAGE

This two bedroomed mobile home with views over the open countryside is being offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. UPVC Double Glazed and Gas Central Heating. Hallway, Kitchen, Lounge, Two Bedrooms and Bathroom. Parking to Front and Garden to Rear. EPC Rating - TBC

£82,500

ST MICHAELS DRIVE
BRERETON

Offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. A modern detached family home. Gas Central Heating and UPVC double-glazing. Entrance Hall, Guest Cloakroom, Lounge, Kitchen, First Floor Landing. Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Large Drive offering ample Off Road Parking. Garden to Rear. EPC RATING - B

£155,000

THE LINDENS
RUGELEY

Modern first floor apartment in popular location. Accommodation comprises Communal security Entrance, Entrance Hall, open plan Lounge/Kitchen with some appliances. Two Bedrooms with En-suite to Master. Bathroom. Allocated Parking. VIEWING RECOMMENDED. NO DSS. NO PETS. NO SMOKERS. EPC Rating D. DEPOSIT £795

£575 pcm

THYME HOUSE, LICHFIELD ROAD
ABBOTS BROMLEY

A beautiful detached character property in sought after village location. Reception Hall, Guest Cloaks, Lounge, Dining Room,Living Kitchen, Utility Room, Laundry Room. Four Bedrooms, En-suites to Three Bedrooms, Dressing Room to Master also. Garage. Landscaped gardens. Council Tax included. VIEWING RECOMMENDED. NO DSS. NO SMOKERS. NO PETS. EPC Rating D. DEPOSIT £2075

£1,713 pcm

SCHOLARS GATE
BRERETON

A well presented three bedroomed semi detached family home in a popular location. Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing. Entrance Hallway, Lounge and Kitchen/ Diner. First Floor Landing, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Garage and Off Road Parking. Garden to Front and Rear. Viewing Recommended. EPC RATING - D

£162,500

DELAFIELD WAY
ETCHINGHILL

A well presented three bedroomed detached family home in a sought after location. UPVC Double Glazing and Electric Heating . Entrance Hall, Lounge and Kitchen/ Diner. First Floor Landing, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Carport with Off Road Parking. Garden to Front and Rear. EPC Rating - E

£185,000

DELAFIELD WAY
ETCHINGHILL

A good size three bedroomed link detached family home in a popular and sought after location. Gas Central Heating and UPVC Double Glazing. Entrance Hall, Breakfast Kitchen, Conservatory and Lounge. First Floor Landing, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Carport and Driveway with Parking. Gardens to Front and Rear. EPC Rating - D

£185,000

BOW STREET
RUGELEY

Two recently refurbished well presented, refurbished semi-detached properties comprising of open plan Lounge/ Kitchen with some appliances, Two Bedrooms and Shower Room. Patio area at rear. On road parking. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. NO DSS. NO PETS. NO SMOKING. EPC Rating - TBC DEPOSIT £795

£575 pcm

LOWER BIRCHES WAY
RUGELEY

Modern Detached Property benefiting from Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing. Property comprises Through Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Breakfast Kitchen with some appliances. Four Bedrooms, Master with En-suite, Bathroom. Garage. Gardens to front and rear. VIEWING RECOMMENDED. NO DSS. NO SMOKERS. NO PETS. DEPOSIT£1108

£800 pcm

OLDFIELDS CRESCENT
GREAT HAYWOOD

A well presented three bedroomed semi detached family home in a popular village location. Gas Central Heating and UPVC Double Glazing. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room and Kitchen. First Floor Landing, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Driveway and Carport. Brick Built Office/ Workshop with Shower Room and Storage. Garden to Rear. EPC Rating - C

£185,000

BELLAMOUR WAY, COLTON

A well presented traditional two bedroomed mid terraced property located in a sought after village location. UPVC Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating. Side Entrance Door, Inner Hallway, Utility Area, Downstairs Bathroom, Lounge and Kitchen/ Diner. First Floor Landing, Two Bedrooms and W.C. Garden to Rear. Viewing Highly Recommended. EPC Rating - D

£235,000

BOW STREET, RUGELEY

C residential are pleased to offer a selection of recently refurbished one and two bedroom ground floor, first floor and second floor flats . Comprising of Entrance Hall, open plan Lounge/Kitchen with some appliances. One or Two Bedrooms and Shower Room. NO DSS. NO PETS. NO SMOKERS. EPC - TBC. From £450-£550 pcm. Viewing Recommended. DEPOSIT £623 to £725

£450 pcm

TALBOT STREET
RUGELEY

A delightful townhouse offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Ideally situated for the town centre and local amenities. Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Cellar, Hand Built Kitchen leading to Garden Room. First Floor Landing with Three Bedrooms and Large Bathroom. Large enclosed gardens to rear with a SECTIONAL DOUBLE GARAGE TO REAR. EPC RATING - E

£240,000

TALBOT STREET
RUGELEY

This spacious unique three bedroom mid terraced townhouse in need of modernisation having many traditional features is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Having Gas Central Heating and Open Fire Place. Enclosed Garden with Brick Built Outhouse leading to a Coach House with Studio. Viewing is essential to appreciate the size of the accommodation. EPC RATING - E

£265,000

WOLSELEY ROAD
RUGELEY

A three/four bedroomed extended family home within walking distance to the Town Centre. Offering Gas Central Heating and UPVC Double Glazing. Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen, Utility, Playroom/4th Bedroom and Conservatory. First Floor Landing, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. Garage with Off Road Parking. Gardens to Front and Rear. EPC Rating - E

£269,995

ANEURIN BEVAN PLACE
RUGELEY

Mid terraced property with detached garage to rear. Accommodation comprises Through Hallyway, spacious Lounge, re-fitted Kitchen, Separate re-fitted WC and Bathroom, Three good sized bedrooms. Benefitting from Gas Central Heating and additional parking to rear. Gardens. NO DSS. NO SMOKERS. PETS CONSIDERED. DEPOSIT £760

£550 pcm

BOW STREET
RUGELEY

Well presented 3 storey, mid terraced property. Accommodation comprises of Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen. Two Double Bedrooms on 1st floor, 4 piece Bathroom suite with large landing area/study on the 2nd floor. VIEWING RECOMMENDED. NO DSS. NO PETS. NO SMOKING. EPC Rating D DEPOSIT £740

£535 pcm

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CANNOCK

Elizabeth Road, Huntington
£60,000

40% SHARED OWNERSHIP!
Connells Estate Agents are pleased to market for sale this two bedroom detached property located in Cannock near to Cannock Chase, schools and local amenities. The property briefly comprises of entrance hall, downstairs WC, lounge, modern fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom, driveway providing to the front providing off road parking and rear garden. Energy rating: B.

Herondale, Hednesford
£99,950

CONNELLS ESTATE AGENTS are pleased to market for sale this two bedroom flat located in Hednesford. The property briefly comprises of lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. Energy rating: C.

Stag Crescent, Norton Canes
£159,999

Connells Estate Agents are pleased to market for sale this three bedroom semi-detached house located in Norton Canes, near to Norton Canes Primary & High School, shops and transport links. The property briefly comprises of entrance porch, family lounge and dining area, modern fitted kitchen, three bedrooms all of a good size, bathroom with shower, bath, wash hand basin and WC. Externally to the front the property provides parking for multiple vehicles, access into garage through double doors, secure gated side access to the rear and also to the side PVC double glazed door in to the garage. To the rear there is a paved entertaining patio area, separate lawn area with various shrubs and trees amongst. Energy rating: E.

Balmoral Drive, Hednesford
£162,500

Connells Estate Agents have for sale this two bedroom semi-detached bungalow located in Hednesford with NO CHAIN. The property briefly comprises of entrance hall, lounge with through conservatory, modern fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, modern fitted bathroom, driveway providing off road parking and garage. Having AMPLE PARKING, the property benefits from having a block paved driveway providing generous parking. There is also SECURE ACCESS VIA DOUBLE GATES for a large vehicle or perhaps a caravan. Energy rating: E.

Keats Avenue, Cannock
£165,000

Connells Estate Agents are pleased to market for sale this two bedroom semi-detahced property located in Cannock. The property briefly comprises of entrance hall, lounge, kitchen / breakfast area, rear hall, work room / storage, inner hall, downstairs bathroom, family room, two bedrooms, loft storage area and garage. Energy rating: awaited.

Grange Crescent, Penkridge
£167,000

A well proportioned semi detached family home located within the popular market town of Penkridge. The accommodation in brief comprises entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen/diner, utility room. On the first floor there are three bedrooms and a bathroom. The property benefits from a detached garage and a block paved driveway for multiple cars, as well as a landscaped front garden and a pleasant rear garden. Energy Rating:- awaited

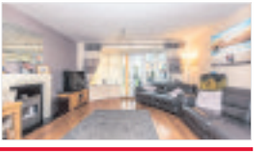
Rudyard Way, Bridgtown
£180,000

Connells Estate Agents are pleased to market for sale this three bedroom semi detached house which is only approximately three years old and has been finished to a very high standard. The property briefly comprises of entrance hall, downstairs WC, family lounge, modern fitted kitchen with large dining area and understairs cupboard. On the first floor there are three bedrooms; the master bedroom being surprisingly large and has an en-suitE, there is also a family bathroom. Externally to the front there is a large driveway providing parking for multiple cars which leads to a detached garage. The rear garden is of a good size. Energy rating: B.

Pye Green Road, Cannock
£215,000

This extended and spacious detached bungalow offers flexible accommodation. The property is located close to Cannock Chase and the market town of Cannock and also commuter links of M6 Toll, M6 and M54. The bungalow, offers entrance hall, lounge/ diner, open plan kitchen/ sunroom, 3 bedrooms, en suite and bathroom. Outside to the front there is a block paved driveway for several cars, flower borders and a garage and low maintenance gardens to the rear. Energy rating: E

Comfrey Close, Huntington
£220,000



Connells Estate Agents are pleased to market for sale this four bedroom semi-detached house located in Huntington near to schools, shops and transport links. The property briefly comprises of entrance hall, downstairs wc, modern fitted kitchen, family lounge, four bedrooms all of a good size and the master having en-suite, modern fitted bathroom, driveway providing off road parking as well as an additional graveled driveway for further parking and garage. Energy rating: C

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Connells

CONNELLS.CO.UK

CANNOCK

Walsall Road, Cannock
£225,000

Connells Estate Agents are pleased to market for sale this three bedroom detached property located in Cannock. The property briefly comprises of entrance porch way, lounge, reception room 2, conservatory, kitchen, downstairs WC, three bedrooms, bathroom, loft room, drive through garage, workshop, further garage, driveway providing off road parking for multiple vehicles and rear garden. The property has period solid wood doors fitted throughout. Energy rating: awaited.

Francis Close, Penkridge
£245,000

Connells Estate Agents are pleased to market for sale this three bedroom semi-detached property located in Penkridge. The property briefly comprises of entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen / diner, downstairs shower room, utility room, three bedrooms, bathroom, loft room with en-suite and driveway providing off road parking. Energy rating: awaited.

Condor Grove, Heath Hayes, NOW AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING
£255,000

Internal inspection is highly recommended on this tastefully decorated, well maintained detached family residence, set in a corner plot of a cul-de-sac the property comprises of entrance porch to hall, lounge, dining area, study, kitchen, utility, conservatory, guest cloaks, four bedrooms and family bathroom, private attractive rear gardens and to the front is ample off road parking with gardens and garage. Energy Rating: D.

Marigold Close, Heath Hayes
£260,000

CONNELLS ESTATE AGENTS are pleased to market for sale this 4 bedroom semi-detached property located in Heath Hayes. The property comprises of entrance hall, downstairs WC, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms - master having en-suite, bathroom and garage. Energy rating: awaited.

Bentons Lane, WITH LAND
£320,000

Connells Estate Agents are pleased to market for sale this three bedroom detached house located in Great Wyrley. The property briefly comprises of entrance hall, lounge, 2nd reception room, modern fitted kitchen, utility room, conservatory, three bedrooms, bathroom and loft room with sky light windows and lighting. Externally there is a long winding graveled driveway providing parking for several vehicles, with adjacent land to the side that has planning permission for a seperate three bedroom detached dwelling. Energy rating: awaited.

Francis Green Lane, Penkridge
£349,950

This is your chance to purchase a detached property in an oustanding position in Penkridge. The property stands in one of the most desirable roads and is quite deceptive as from the front you wouldn't believe that the property briefly comprises of a grand entrance hall, lounge, extended dining room, kitchen/diner, study, large utility room, downstairs WC and garage whilst upstairs you have three double bedrooms, master with en-suite shower room, family bathroom, large walk in cupboard as well as a further airing cupboard. Externally you have a pleasant, low maintenance rear garden which is currently all patio and gravel beds however the potential for a large lawn area is there. To the front you have a large block paved driveway and a front garden. Energy rating: E.

Littleworth Hill, Hednesford
£390,000

CONNELLS ESTATE AGENTS are pleased to market for sale this four bedroom detached property located in Hednesford. The property briefly comprises of entrance hall, lounge, dining area, cloakroom / study, kitchen, utility room, downstairs WC, four bedrooms - master bedroom having en-suite and walk in wardrobe, bathroom and an annex with lounge / kitchen diner, kitchen, wet room, two bedrooms and storage areas. Energy rating: D.

Chestnut Grove, Penkridge
£475,000

WOW!!! DO NOT MISS YOUR CHANCE TO PURCHASE THIS ELEGANT & BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED FIVE BEDROOM (TWO EN-SUITE'S) LUXURY DETACHED HOUSE LOCATED IN ONE OF THE MOST SOUGHT AFTER ROADS IN PENKRIDGE. Connells estate agents have for sale this FIVE bedroom detached house located in Penkridge within walking distance to the centre of the Village. The property comprises of GRAND ENTRANCE HALL, lounge, dining room, study, downstairs WC, modern fitted luxury kitchen which is open plan into conservatory, utility room. On the first floor there are FIVE BEDROOMS with the master benefiting from having an en-suite and a dressing room whilst the second bedrooms also benefits from having an en-suite, there is an immaculate Family bathroom. Externally the property has a driveway suitable for multiple cars as well as a front lawn. The rear garden is set over two tiers and is of a large size. EPC Rating: D

New Penkridge Road, Shoal Hill
£995,000

This property houses some of the highest quality features such as integrated home surround sound system, central vacuum system in most rooms, extensive programmable lighting, telephone intercom system and under floor heating throughout the whole house. Having a total of six bedrooms all of which have en-suites, the property briefly comprises of a porch, entrance hall, downstairs WC, lounge, dining room, conservatory, study, modern fitted kitchen, utility room, downstairs bedroom complete with en-suite, double garage. On the first floor you have four bedrooms, all four have en-suites than on the second floor you have a further two bedrooms, one of which has an en-suite. The property briefly comprises of entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen/ dining living room, pantry cupboard, utility room, rear entrance porch, downstairs wet room, downstairs W.C, swimming pool, five bedrooms - all having en-suites with the master bedroom having its own dressing room area, games room, gym room, wine cellar, in and out driveway providing off road parking for multiple vehicles and double garage, entertaining patio area to the rear with separate lawn area and various trees and shrubs amongst. Energy rating: C.

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flintandco.com 01543 624400

CANNOCK
DARTMOUTH ROAD

- Traditional Three bedroom
- Breakfast kitchen
- Lounge dining room
- Modern fitted bathroom
- Gargage Driveway
- Large mature garden
- Gas central heated
- Guest WC
- EPC rating E

£264,995

CANNOCK
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD

- Three bedroom property
- Master bedroom in loft room
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Modern fitted bathroom
- Lounge & dining room
- Off road parking
- EPC rating E

£165,000

HEATH HAYES
SALISBURY DRIVE

- A much improved 3 bedroom house
- Gas centra heating and double glazing
- Lounge, refitted kitchen/diner
- Conservatory
- Three bedrooms
- Refitted modern bathroom
- Front and rear gardens
- Garage
- EPC rating C

£209,995

WEDGES MILLS
THE MEADOWS

- An execuutive 5 bedroom detached
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, Kitchen/diner
- Guest cloakroom, conservatory
- Two bedrooms with en suites
- Bathroom and shower room
- Garden to rear with open views
- Garage and driveway
- EPC rating C

Offers In Excess of £360,000

HEATH HAYES
BADGERS COURT

- Two bedroom apartment
- NO CHAIN
- Gas central heating
- Allocated parking
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Modern fitted bathroom
- Secure electric gated access

£99,950

HEDNESFORD
ANGELESSY COURT

- First floor 1 bedroom apartment
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Modern fitted bathroom
- Lounge, Study/Storage
- Garage, Allocated parking
- Good Location
- Intercom Entrance
- Must be Viewed
- EPC rating D

£112,500

HEATH HAYES
PHEASANT WAY

- A modern three bedroom property
- Gas central heating and double glazed
- Lounge/diner
- Kitchen
- Guest cloakroom
- Master bedroom with en suite
- Family bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden and parking
- EPC rating C

£169.500

CANNOCK
OLD PENKRIDGE MEWS

- A well presented two bedroom house
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, conservatory
- Kitchen, guest cloakroom
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Rear yard
- Of road parking
- EPC rating C

£129,995

HEATH HAYES
CHARLOCK GROVE

- Three bedroom detached
- Lounge, Conservatory
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fitted Bathroom
- Guest WC
- Garage & Driveway
- Gas central heated
- NO CHAIN
- Awaiting EPC rating

£209,995

NORTON CANES
PENNYCRESS GREEN

- A three bedroom bungalow
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Three bedrooms
- Shower room
- Conservatory
- Garden to rear
- Garage and driveway
- Awaiting EPC rating

£209,950

CANNOCK
WELLINGTON DRIVE

- Detached two bedroom bungalow
- Breakfast kitchen
- Lounge, entrance hallway
- Gas central heating/double glazed
- Family bathroom, loft room
- Garage with driveway
- Awaiting EPC rating
- Viewing Essential

£259,995

HEDNESFORD
STAFFORD LANE

- A unique 3 bedroom bungalow
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Dining room
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Good sized rear gaarden
- Driveway
- Awaiting EPC rating

£160,000

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PROPERTY

Three-bedroom semi in a very sought after area

Being fully refurbished, this three-bedroomed semi-detached house in Dimbles Lane, Lichfield, lies in a well-established residential area.

It is for sale through Lovett & Co at £175,000 with no chain.

As well as being freshly decorated throughout, other work carried out on the property includes a new kitchen and bathroom, all new carpet and laminate flooring throughout, new driveway and landscaped rear garden with newly laid turf.

LICHFIELD

£175,000

The property is set down a quiet cul-de-sac overlooking a small green and has a private driveway for at least two vehicles and landscaped rear gardens.

The property has two floors. On the ground floor it has an entrance way, lounge with a dining area and a large fitted kitchen with breakfast bar and further dining area.

On the first floor there are three bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Call 01543 889410.

Charming family home has four good bedrooms

HEATH HAYES

£260,000 >>>

Commanding an impressive position, this charming four-bedroomed detached family home lies in a pleasant cul-de-sac in a popular area of Heath Hayes in Marigold Close.

It is for sale through Connells at £260,000.

The property briefly comprises an entrance hall, downstairs WC, a family lounge, a dining room, a modern fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, a utility room, a family bathroom with a wash hand basin, bath and WC, four bedrooms.

At the front is a driveway providing parking, a garage, lawn and side access gate.

Contact Connells on 01543 500923.

Marwood Homes

Sales Lettings Commercial Surveys

FREE VALUATIONS

Hatherton Road, Cannock

- Detached Four Bedrooms
- Delightful Family Home
- Stunning Open Plan Kitchen
- Fully Refurbished To High Spec
- Versatile Living Space
- Garage & Extensive Gardens
- No Chain Involved

£595,000

Eccleshall Road, Stafford

- Detached New Build Executive Home
- Four Bedrooms
- Finished To High Spec
- Stylish En-suite Shower Room
- Open Plan Kitchen / Dining Room
- Immaculately Finished
- Brand New

Offers Over £320,000

Chenet Way, Cannock

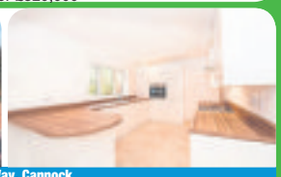
- Immaculate Executive Home
- Stunning Kitchen
- Landscaped Gardens
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Shower Room & Ensuite Shower
- Double Garage
- Gas Central Heating System
- Utility & Guest WC

£320,000

Meriden Close, Cannock

- Detached Bungalow
- 3 Bedrooms
- Very Spacious
- 3 Reception Rooms
- Cul De Sac Location
- Garage
- No Upward Chain
- EPC - TBC

£267,500



Bideford Way, Cannock

- Detached Bungalow
- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Large Living / Dining Room
- Master Bedroom & En-suite
- Fully Refurbished
- Stunning Conversation
- Popular Residential Area
- EPC - D

£250,000

Hatton Road, Cannock

- Detached Family Home
- Four Good Size Bedrooms
- Open Fields To The Front
- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs WC
- Very Popular Location
- Carport & Garage

£249,950

Keys Park Road, Wimblebury

- Detached Family Home
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom & Ensuite
- Modern Kitchen & Utility
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Conservatory & Guest WC
- Large Block Paved Drive

£235,000

Rowan Close, Huntington

- Immaculate Four Bed Home
- Stylish Dining Kitchen
- Spacious Lounge & Conservatory
- Bathroom & Ensuite
- Garage & Downstairs WC
- Low Maintenace Rear Garden
- Close To Cannock Chase

£220,000

Hopton Meadow, Heath Hayes

- Delightful Detached Home
- Stunning Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms, Corner Plot
- Detached Outbuilding
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- Drive, Landscaped Gardens
- EPC - D

£200,000

Ullswater Place, Cannock

- Detached Home
- Five Bedrooms
- In Need Of Modernisation
- Spacious
- Large Rear Garden
- Close To Cannock Town
- Viewing Is A Must

£210,000

New Plant Lane, Chase Terrace

- Modern Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Immaculate Condition
- Lounge/Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Garage
- Enclosed Rear Garden

£189,950

Partridge Close, Heath Hayes

- Town House
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Ensuites
- Family Bathroom
- Lounge Diner
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Popular Location

£175,000

Huntington Terrace Road, Chadsmoor

- Detached Three Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner & Guest WC
- Large Rear Garden
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- No Chain Involved
- Gas Central Heating

£165,000

Gorsey Lane, Cannock

- Traditional Terrace Home
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen & Downstairs WC
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- No Upward Chain

£165,000

Earlswood Way, Cannock

- Modern Townhouse
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge & Downstairs WC
- Stylish Kitchen Diner
- Two Car Driveway
- Immaculate Condition

Offers Over £160,000

Nightingale Close, Huntington

- Modern Three Bedroom Semi
- Lounge & Kitchen Diner
- No Upward Chain
- South Facing Rear Garden
- Driveway to front & Side
- Energy Efficient Solar Panels

£155,000

Walsall Road, Cannock

- Two Double Bedrooms
- Traditional Semi Detached
- Large Garden
- Secure Gated Parking
- No Upward Chain
- Open Plan Kitchen Diner

£137,000

Butts Way, Norton Canes

- Semi Detached
- Three Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner
- Conservatory
- Refitted Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating

£135,000

Huntington Terrace Road, Cannock

- Two Bedroom Bungalow
- Large Garden
- Brnad New Kitchen/Diner
- Brand New Bathroom
- No Upward Chain
- Gas Central Heating

£129,950

Blake Close, Cannock

- Modern Style Town House EPC - D
- Sought After Location
- Two Bedrooms
- Ideal Investment
- Gardens & Parking
- No Chain

£115,000

Newhall Street, Cannock

- Semi Detached
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom & Ensuite
- Two Reception Rooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Close to Town

£110,000

Station Road, Hednesford

- Charming Traditional Mid Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking at Rear
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Close To Train Station

£110,000

Barnard Way, Cannock

- Ground Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Store Room
- Ideal Buy To Let
- Tenant in, Paying £500

£87,500

Lupin Drive, Huntington

- Modern Second Floor Flat
- Two Double Bedrooms
- 40% Shared Ownership
- Generous Accommodation
- Immaculately Presented
- D/Glazed & Gas/C/Heating

£41,000

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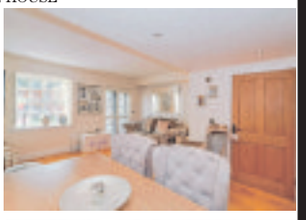
The Property Ombudsman

NAEA Estate Agents

NEW

SHARESHILL
VERNON HOUSE

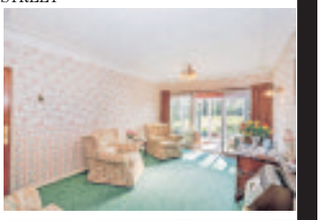
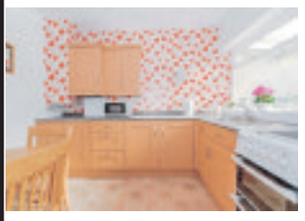


- Executive Family Home
- 3 Storey Mews
- Sought After Location
- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Underfloor Heating
- Dressing Area
- En-Suite
- Garage
- Viewing Recommended

£230,000

NEW

NORTON CANES
CHAPEL STREET

- Detached Bungalow
- Spacious Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility Room
- Conservatoy
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Large Garden
- Garage, Parking
- NO CHAIN

£220,000

NEW

HEDNESFORD
WILCOX AVENUE

- Spacious Lounge/Diner
- Refitted Kitchen
- Loft Room
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Family Bathroom
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Parking
- Viewing Recommended

£145,000

NEW

HEDNESFORD
FESTIVAL MEWS

- Modern Starter Home
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Parking
- Garden

£110,000 OFFERS OVER

NEW

CANNOCK
ST.JAMES ROAD

- Fully Refurbished Bungalow
- Spacious Lounge
- Refitted Modern Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Shower Room
- Gardens
- Close to Cannock
- No Chain

£125,000

NEW

CANNOCK
HUNTINGTON TERRACE ROAD

- Extended Detached
- Lounge, Conservatory
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Study, WC
- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Ensuite
- Mature Rear Garden
- Garage

£239,995

NEW

CHURCHBRIDGE
MYRTLE GLADE

- Modern End Town
- Lounge, WC
- Kitchen/Diner
- 3 Bedrooms, En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Driveway
- Viewing Recommended

£189,950

HEATH HAYES
THE HEATH

- Modern Apartment
- Secure Gated Access
- Through Hallway
- Open Plan lounge and kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- 2 Bedrooms
- Allocated Parking
- NO CHAIN

£115,000

"Service you expect from the Agent that delivers"

butters john bee bjb

CANNOCK 01543 500030

17 BRANCHES THROUGHOUT STAFFORDSHIRE
CHESHIRE, SHROPSHIRE & WEST MIDLANDS

BUTTERSJOHNBEE.COM

Burntwood Springhill Road

NEW

3 2 1 EPC E £270,000

SELL
YOUR PROPERTY WITH US
FROM ONLY
£995*
ONLY AVAILABLE UNTIL
31ST MAY
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* plus VAT, subject to you taking our conveyancing service

Hednesford Sussex Drive

NEW

3 1 1 EPC TBA £155,000

Wimblebury Horseshoe Drive

NEW

3 2 2 EPC C £235,000

Cannock Edwards Croft

NEW

2 1 1 EPC C £190,000

Cannock Oakhill Road

NEW

3 1 1 EPC D £155,000

Hednesford Uxbridge Street

5 4 2 EPC D £625,000

Essington Sneyd Lane

4 3 3 EPC C £600,000

Cannock Hatherton Road

5 3 2 EPC D £530,000

Hednesford St Patrick Close

6 3 3 EPC C £325,000

Hednesford Stone Pine Close

NEW

5 3 2 EPC C £275,000

Norton Canes Hednesford Road

NEW

4 2 1 EPC D £215,000

Heath Hayes Hopton Meadow

NEW

3 1 1 EPC D £200,000

Hednesford Chalcot Drive

3 1 1 EPC D £190,000

Cannock Dartmouth Avenue

NEW

3 2 1 EPC E £175,000

Heath Hayes Brooklyn Road

3 1 1 EPC D £139,995

Cannock Dorney Place

NEW

2 1 1 EPC TBA £109,995

Great Wyrley Penny Court

NEW

2 1 1 EPC F £70,000

Sales & Lettings

DIXONS Estate Agents

Doing**More...**

Hednesford

£390,000

This beautifully presented four bedroom detached modern house with a separate annexe is situated in a stunning location.

Cannock

£285,000

This stunning four bedroom detached family home is in a brilliant location and must be viewed to be fully appreciated.

Cannock

£280,000

Three bedroom extended detached bungalow in a popular location perfect for any family. Off road parking and garage.

Huntington

£265,000

Beautifully presented four bedroom detached family home, situated on a sought after estate within the Cannock area.

Cannock

£250,000

Well presented four bedroom detached family home located in the sought after area of Heath Hayes. Off road parking and garage.

Cannock

£245,000

Well presented three bedroom detached bungalow situated within easy reach of Cannock town centre and all local amenities.

Hednesford

£240,000

Well presented and modern, four bedroom spacious detached family home located in Hednesford. Stunning breakfast cottage.

Hednesford

£230,000

Dixons offer this spacious three bedroom detached family home located on a sought after road in Hednesford. Off road parking and garage.

Huntington

£225,000

Beautifully presented four bedroom semi detached, situated on a sought after estate within the Cannock area.

Cannock

£215,000

Five bedroom family home located in the sought after area of Heath Hayes. This spacious family home would be perfect for any growing family.

Hednesford

£200,000

Four bedroom detached family home in a sought after location. Benefits from having three reception rooms.

Cannock

£185,000

Three bedroom family home located in the sought after area of Heath Hayes. This well presented home would be perfect for any first time buyer or family.

Huntington

£180,000

Luxury four bedroom, three storey semi detached home located in a popular area. Integral garage and off road parking.

Hednesford

£165,000

Dixons are pleased to offer this three bedroom semi detached family home located in the sought after area of Hednesford.

Cannock

£75,000

Well presented ground floor one bedroom maisonette. The property is ideal for any first time buyer or investor.

Huntington

£60,000

Dixons are pleased to offer for sale this two bedroom park home on a corner plot located on a popular site in Huntington.

on the move

chase independent
01543 504234

HUNTINGTON TERRACE ROAD,

- One Bed Flat
- Lounge, Kitchen
- One Bedroom
- Bathroom, DG
- Electric Heating
- Parking to Rear
- Energy Rating E
- No DSS or Pets

£350 pcm

GLOVERS HILL COURT, BRERETON

- 2 bed 1st fl flat
- Lounge/diner, Kitchen,
- Bathroom, parking
- Energy rating B
- No DSS or Pets

£575 pcm

OLD PENKRIDGE MEWS, CANNOCK

Town Centre
Fully Refurbished
2 Bed End Terraced
Lounge, Kitchen
Conservatory
Allocated Parking
Energy Rating D
NO DSS OR PETS

£575 pcm

HORSESHOE DRIVE, WIMBLEBURY

- 2 Bed Mid Town House
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Guest WC
- GCH/DG
- Allocated Parking
- Energy rating B
- NO DSS/PETS.

£575 pcm

BARLEY CLOSE, HEDNESFORD

- 2 Bed End Terrace
- Lounge/Kitchen
- GCH/DG
- Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- Energy Rating D
- No DSS/Pets

£595 pcm

BOND WAY, HEDNESFORD

- 2 Bed Semi Detached
- Lounge
- Kitchen-Diner
- GCH/DG
- Gardens
- Energy Rating C
- No DSS/Pets

£595 pcm

BROMLEY CLOSE, HEDNESFORD

- 3 Bed End
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Guest WC
- Bathroom
- GCH & DG
- Gardens & Parking
- EPC Pending
- NO DSS OR PETS

£625 pcm

LANGHOLM DRIVE, HEATH HAYES

- Three Bed Link
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Shower Room
- GCH, DG
- Gardens, Garage
- Energy Rating D
- NO DSS OR PETS

£750 pcm

KESTREL WAY, CHESLYN HAY

- Thee Bed Link
- Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen, Utility
- Conservatory
- Office, GCH & DG
- Garden & Drive
- Energy Rating D
- NO DSS OR PETS

£795 pcm

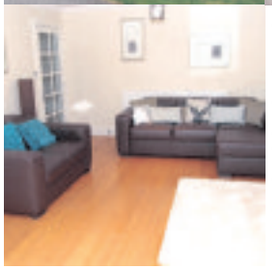
WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, CANNOCK

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

- COMMERCIAL
- Town Centre
- 1st Floor Suite
- Five Offices
- Kitchen Facilities
- Toilet Facilities
- Gas Central Heating

£700 pcm

ROBINS CROFT, HEATH HAYES



- An Executive Double Fronted Detached Family Residence Situated a Good Sized Plot
- Imposing Reception Hallway, Guest WC
- Study, Lounge, Delightful Dining Room
- Spacious Breakfast Kitchen
- Four Good Sized Bedrooms, Two En-Suite Shower Rooms
- Family Bathroom, Double Detached Garage
- Good Sized Front and Rear Gardens

£389,950

OLD HEDNESFORD ROAD, CANNOCK

- A Fully Refurbished Detached Family Residence Situated on a Good Sized Corner Plot.
- Reception Hall, Guest WC
- Lounge, Impressive Kitchen/ Diner, Utility
- Spacious Master Bedroom with Imposing En-Suite
- Four Further Bedrooms, Superb Family Bathroom
- Integral Garage, Detached Garage at Rear, Driveway
- Established Front, Side & Rear Gardens

£365,000

SWEETBRIAR WAY, WIMBLEBURY

- A Beautifully Presented Detached House
- Sought After Residential Location
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- Re-Fitted Kitchen, Lounge & Dining Room
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- Family Bathroom
- Delightful Rear Garden
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£254,995

KNIGHTON ROAD, WIMBLEBURY

- A Well Presented Link Detached House
- Lounge. Dining Room
- Extended Kitchen, Four Bedrooms
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- Garage & Driveway
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Open Aspect to Side & Rear
- No Upward Chain

£225,000

HILLSIDE CLOSE, HEDNESFORD

- Spacious Semi Detached
- Lounge & Conservatory
- Kitchen & Family Room
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- Four Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Master with Dressing Room/Study
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OIRO £199,950

PYE GREEN ROAD, CANNOCK

- Extended and Much Improved Bungalow
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- Guest WC, Kitchen
- Spacious Lounge, Three Bedrooms
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- No Chain

£165,000

MAYCROFT CLOSE, HEDNESFORD

- A Well Presented Semi Detached House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Conservatory, Kitchen
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- Garage/ Utility Area, Double Width Driveway
- Viewing Recommended

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- Lounge & Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Kitchen
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- Three Bedrooms & Family Bathroom

OIEO £130,000

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Trauma and the danger of being stranded on roadside

Close to half a million UK drivers a year are left stranded on the road after being involved in accidents that leave their cars immobile.

One in eight drivers are also forced to await rescue on a dangerous stretch of road, research by Direct Line has revealed.

The survey, which took into account 2,006 responses by UK adults, also found that 52 per cent of respondents under 35 felt vulnerable following an accident.

Simon Williams, RAC spokesman, said: "Being stranded at the side of a busy road after an accident can be a frightening experience.

"Having attended the scenes of thousands of accidents RAC recovery teams often find motorists and their passengers still in their vehicles on busy roads.

"We strongly advise everyone in a stricken vehicle to move to a place of safety as quickly and as carefully as possible to avoid the risk of being involved in another incident, unless you are unable to or it would put you in greater danger to do so."

The survey also revealed that a quarter of drivers had to resort to calling friends or family members to come and rescue them.

Gus Park, head of motor insurance at Direct Line, said: "Being stranded by the roadside can be extremely distressing for the driver and passengers involved, especially after a collision that leaves the vehicle unroadworthy.

Female drivers are more likely to call a partner

" With a thousand people involved in car accidents every day, the last thing they need is to be left stranded in a vulnerable, or inconvenient location with no means to get to their destination."

The data also showed that female drivers were more likely to call a partner, while men preferred to contact their insurers first.

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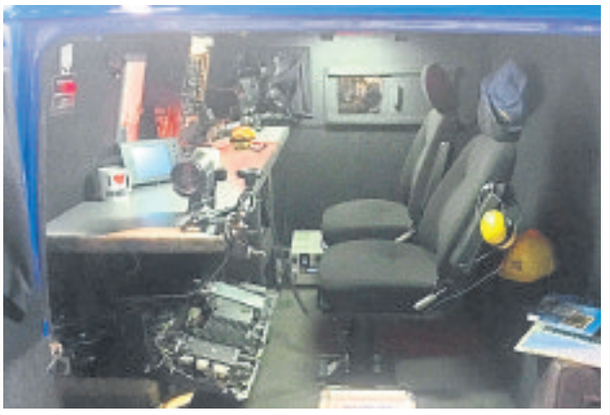
MOTORING

Restored 'spy van' on show



Period-correct 'spying' equipment was installed during restoration of the van which was active for ten years

A blue Ford Transit used by the government for surveillance operations will be displayed complete with period-correct camera and monitoring equipment.

The former government 'spy van' has been fully restored for display at the forthcoming Consumer Vehicle Show.

The blue 1988 Ford Transit used to be owned by HM Revenue and Customs and was used by the agency to monitor tax avoiders.

It has now been restored to its original glory and is due to go on display at the Commercial Vehicle Show at Birmingham NEC between April 25 and 27.

Paperwork with the vehicle shows that it operated in south-east, north-west, north-east England as well as Scotland, covering just 6,000 miles between 2003 and 2013.

The mileage now reads 48,000.

After seeing service with government, it was bought by James Davis, director of commercial vehicles at Manheim Auctions, in 2014.

It then underwent restoration at experts C Walton Ltd in Bruntingthorpe, Leicestershire, and had period-correct cameras, microphones and other monitoring equipment fitted to give the interior an authentic feel.

The stalwart Ford Transit is one of the most iconic and highest-selling vans ever made.

Introduced in 1965, more than eight million examples have been sold – this particular van was initially restored to celebrate the model's 50th birthday.

On May 22, the 'spy van' Transit will go up for auction with no reserve to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society.

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Duration of Agreement	60 months
Representative APR	10.9% APR

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14/14 Citr C1 1.0 Ed	£5,999
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12/12 Vaux Astra 2.0 CDTi 165 E/F Elite	£6,999
14/14 Vaux Corsa 1.3 CDTi E/F SE	£6,999
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It's a smart update to a hugely popular car

Skoda breathes new life into the popular Octavia

By Jack Evans

As far as refreshes go, this is subtle. The new Skoda Octavia now benefits from an updated face, which the manufacturer claims makes it look wider and sportier than before. We're not too convinced about that – but it's a smart update to a hugely popular car. Look closely and you'll see that the headlights have been split in two, while the light units at the rear now use LEDs rather than conventional bulbs.

The rear track of the car has been widened, and Skoda tells us that this has been done to increase stability levels at higher speeds.

Inside, the Octavia's infotainment system has been updated, with even base-spec cars receiving an eight-inch touchscreen. A wealth of safety equipment, including blind spot detection and predictive pedestrian protection, is now available, too.

The old Octavia wasn't a bad-looking car, though it was never one to set pulses racing. The new car is blink-and-you'll-miss-it similar, save for those previously mentioned headlights. It certainly becomes a more appealing car when finished in brighter colours, as the plainer ones – silver and white, for instance – have a tendency to wash the car out.

Skoda has been knocking it out of the park recently – the Kodiaq is a great example of that. As with many refreshes, there's not a huge amount of new features to point out on the new Octavia – but it is still just as compelling to own as the outgoing car.

A smart choice for those who want a great-value car

Our test car was the hatchback, though there is a larger estate if you're looking for top-level practicality. That said, the hatch is hardly minuscule. There's plenty of legroom in the rear, even with a tall passenger up front. Headroom is also impressive all round, while large windows help give a better impression of space in the cabin.

The boot is also excellently sized. It offers 590 litres of space with the rear seats folded up, which rises to a capacious 1,580 litres with them down. For reference, the Volkswagen Golf hatchback has a 380-litre boot capacity with the rear seats up, and 1,270 litres with them down. If you want even more space, then opt for the estate – this can offer up to 1,740 litres of storage.

Thanks to its quiet and refined engine, the Octavia is a relaxing car to cover many miles in. The steering does feel a touch light at times, though this benefits around-town driving. At higher speeds, this lightness can be addressed by putting the car into Sport mode, which adds weight to the steering.

It's hard to knock the Octavia's ride, too. It's a relatively softly sprung set-up, meaning that it does have a tendency to 'float' over crests in the road, but the by-product of this is good ride quality, even on larger 18-inch alloys such as those fitted to our test car. Yes, large bumps do tend to upset the car's ride somewhat, but for the most part it irons out creases in the road very well. Opt for a smaller wheel size and there will be little to grumble about in terms of ride quality.

Our car was an SE L specification vehicle, which includes a wealth of standard equipment. For a base price of £23,365, you get 17-inch alloy wheels, rear parking sensors as well as alcantara upholstery and full HD headlights. A full SmartLink suite comes as standard too, incorporating smartphone connectivity options such as Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

However, the car we drove came fitted with options such as 18-inch alloy wheels and a Columbus infotainment system with a 9.2-inch touchscreen – a £1,050 option. Altogether, it came out at £26,695, which still represents a huge amount of value given the amount of technology and equipment on board.

The Octavia remains a smart choice for those who want a great-value car that comes loaded with standard equipment for a relatively small outlay. It's immensely practical thanks to a large boot, while plenty of space in the rear means that you won't have any complaints from those sat in the back, either. It's an ideal car for families, as well as business drivers who want good economy figures with decent-enough performance.

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It looks long and low but with sleek, aerodynamic lines

All guns blazing for Kia with Optima Sportswagen

By John Griffiths

Long gone are the days when estate cars were the rather boxy, boring preserve of travelling salesmen.

Now they have to be as stylish (and in some cases more so) than their saloon stablemates as not only business buyers but families with children or dogs seek the practicality of a big, easy to load luggage area.

Now Kia, with a keen eye on European markets, has joined the fray with what is, surprisingly, its first effort in the fiercely competitive D-segment estate market. There is a big advantage in coming late to the party – you can see what others are doing and do it better.

By coincidence or not, the Optima Sportswagon offers a little more luggage space than big-selling rivals such as the Vauxhall Insignia and Ford Mondeo, and comes exceptionally well kitted out at competitive prices. And, of course, there's that seven year warranty package.

Prices start at £22,295 (£1,100 more than the saloon) up to £30,595 for the flagship GT-Line with automatic transmission. The car tested was the mid-range '3' spec model at £24,495 on the road.

At first sight it looks long and low but with sleek, aerodynamic lines which convery a sporting

There's a comprehensive instrument panel

appearances. Appearances can be deceptive, as under the skin the Sportwagon can carry five passengers and 552 litres of luggage – rising to an impressive 1,686 litres with the rear seats folded down. If that's not enough you get roof rails too.

The rear seats split 40:20:40 so you can still carry two adults in the back while making space for longer items of luggage.

It is powered by a 1.7 litre turbo diesel with 139PS of power and a hefty 340Nm of torque at just 1,750rpm. That's enough for a sub ten seconds sprint time to 62mph, but that's not the whole story: the low down pulling power means smooth acceleration and refined cruising, with the engine barely breathing heavily on the motorway.

That's helped by the slick six-speed manual, with a top gear ratio pitched relatively high to aid economy and refinement at higher speeds.

It's official fuel average is 64.2mpg (I managed 51mpg on a series of relatively short A and B road trips) with a low CO2 rating of 113g/km.

Most of my trips were made in pretty awful weather conditions – which made me truly thankful for the sheer luxury of the Sportswagon's heated seats and steering wheel.

The seats in the '3' grade test car were large and comfortable, in a mix of black cloth and faux leather.

The driver has a comprehensive instrument panel in front of him, with the colour touch screen atop the centre console angled slightly towards him or her. It's only a few degrees, but it does make it easier to read and appears to cut reflections.

The screen displays the satnav, but also controls the smartphone connectively, Apple CarPlay, Bluetooth, DAB radio and audio and connected services such as traffic, speed camera and weather updates, Your music choice is played through a Harmen Kardon premium sound system.

Climate control, electric windows, cornering lights, electrically adjustable driver's seat and an automatic de-fogging systems are also standard.

The Kia's safety systems are comprehensive, starting with multiple airbags and including an array of the latest electronic systems including stability control and brake assist, hill start assist, blind spot detection, lane keeping assist, and rear crossing traffic alert.

The car was designed for Europe's roads and the preferences of European drivers, to give it a dynamic and slightly sporting character. The steering is quick and accurate which contributes to the agility of what is, after all, a fairly long car,

The Sportswagon has an upmarket feel, and the driving seat is a good place to be. The fixtures and fittings have a premium feel, and at under £25,000 the test model seemed a lot of car for your money.

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CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Please note that the deadline for our weekly Cannock Chronicle is 4pm every Friday, for the following weeks edition.

This is subject to change Bank Holidays.

Eg (4pm Thursday)

ALLEN

Gordon Thomas

Passed away on Saturday, 25 March 2017, aged 87 years.

Reunited with his beloved Wife Betty.

Much loved Father and Father-in-Law to Steve and Jenny, devoted Grandad to Stuart and Betty, Jamie and Bryony, Jacob and Chloe, and Great Grandad to Ruby and Zachary.

Dad you will be sadly missed by us all.

The Funeral Service will take place at 10.30 on Friday, 21 April 2017 at Streetly Crematorium.

Flowers or charitable donations welcome.

EMBERTON

Horace

Sadly passed away Friday, April 7, 2017, aged 85 years.

He was much loved and will be dearly missed by all his Family and Friends.

The Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 2017, 2pm, at St Marks Church, Great Wyrley, followed by a Burial at Strawberry Lane Cemetery.

Family flowers only please.

Donations, if so desired, for St Giles Hospice.

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FOWLER

Mavis Annette

Passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 4, 2017, aged 83 years.

She was much loved and will be sadly missed by all her Family and Friends.

The Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, April 27, 2017, 2.30pm at Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only please.

Donations, if so desired for Cancer Research

A J Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
67 Station Street, Cheslyn Hay WS6 7EG
01922 410612

GRAY-DAVIS

Ken

Of Cheslyn Hay.

Sadly passed away April 5, aged 86 years.

A much loved Husband to Hilda, adored Father and Grandfather and a very special man who will be missed by all his Family and Friends.

His Funeral Service will take place 11.15am, Monday, April 24, at St.Mark's Church followed by a Burial at Great Wyrley Cemetery.

All flowers are welcome.

All inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
70 Church Street, Cannock,WS11 1DH
01543 502322

HAWKINS

James William

(Jim)

Sadly passed away at The Royal Stoke University Hospital on Friday, April 7, 2017, aged 76 years.

Jim will be missed dearly by his loving Wife Valerie, Daughters Beverley and Kerrie and Son Adam. Granddaughters Millie ad Ruby, Daughter-in-law Geeta and Sons-in-law Jon and Fletch.

The Funeral Service will be held on Thursday, April 27, 2017, at Stafford Crematorium at 1.30pm.

Family flowers only please.

Donations, if so desired for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

All inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman
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70 Church Street, Cannock,WS11 1DH
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HEAD

Margaret

nee Hewitt

Mother of David, Sister of Allen, Amy and Michael. Sister-in-law of Grace. Grandmother of Jamie and Sarah. Great-Grandmother of Eden, Orla and Emily.

Passed away on April 10, 2017, aged 85 years.

The Funeral Service will be held at Stafford Crematorium on Thursday, April 20, 2017 at 2.30pm.

Family flowers only please.

Donations if so desired for Macmillan Nurses.

All inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
70 Church Street, Cannock,WS11 1DH
01543 502322

HEAD

Margaret

nee Hewitt

In loving memory of a dear Sister and Friend from Amy.

Godmother and Aunt of Charlotte and Great-Aunt of William.

Sadly missed.

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
70 Church Street, Cannock,WS11 1DH
01543 502322

HODSON

Dora Vickstaff

Passed away peacefully on April 4, 2017, aged 90 years.

Dora was much loved and will be missed dearly by all of her Family and Friends.

The Funeral Service will take place on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at Chadsmoor Methodist Church, Cannock at 11am, followed by a Burial at Cannock Cemetery.

Family flowers only please.

Donations, if so desired, for Action for Children.

All inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
70 Church Street, Cannock,WS11 1DH
01543 502322

THOMAS

Mary

Sadly passed away, Friday, April 7, 2017, aged 82 years.

She will be sadly missed by all her Family and Friends.

The Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday, April 26 at 11.30am, at Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only.

Donations if so desired for Air Ambulance.

All inquiries c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
70 Church Street, Cannock,WS11 1DH
01543 502322

WALKER

John Henry

(Jack)

Originated from Gt. Wyrley

Passed away on April 4, 2017 aged 87 years, surrounded by his loving Family.

He will be sadly missed by Wife Brenda, Family and Friends.

Funeral Service to take place at St. Lukes Church, Cannock at 10.30am.

Followed by a burial at St. Saviours, Hatherton Church Yard at 11.30am.

Family flowers only please, donations if desired, for Respiratory Research, New Cross Hospital.

Inquiries to:

Co -Operative Funeralcare. 01543 572644.

WILLIAMS

David John

(The Boss)

Formerly of Spray Craft, Rugeley.

Passed away at home on April 8, 2017, aged 77 years.

Funeral Service to take place at Stafford Crematorium on Friday, April 28, 2017, at 1pm.

Any further inquiries please contact

PHILLIP EMERY
Funeral Directors
Bedford House
15 Bow Street
Rugeley
WS15 2BT
01889 582274

WOOD

Margaret Helen

Passed away peacefully, April 9, 2017, at Kings Bromley Nursing Home, aged 84.

She will be very sadly missed by all her loving Family and Friends.

Funeral Service to take place 10am on Wednesday, April 26, 2017, at St Augustine's Church, Rugeley, followed by Burial at Stile Cop Cemetery.

Floral tributes accepted or if preferred donations for Cancer Research UK may be sent c/o

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birthday remembrances

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William Lewis

18.04.35

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With love from Wife Irene and Family.

X X X

JONES

Stuart Graham

Husband

18.4.63.

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Joyce, Wesley, Lucy, Beau and Oscar.

X X

Brother

Love and miss you always.

Lesley, Mick, Rob, Karen and Family.

X X X

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VISIT:

bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

Simply press the free ad icon.
Sorry, no pets, guns or livestock.
Private advertisers only.

Place a paid for advert

By Phone 01902 317878
8.30am - 5.30pm Mon - Fri.
Closed Sat/Sun and Bank Holidays

Online
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

In person
At your local Express & Star Office.
Cancel/amend, call before 3.00pm Monday - Friday for the next day's advertisement or also before 3.00pm Friday for Monday's advertisement.

1 Family

elderly & disabled

CADDI -106G mobility scooter, c/w battery charger, instruction booklet. Good condition. £350ono. 07736 591873.

DOUBLE ELECTRIC Bed, includes headboard, mattress with cover, buyer to collect, £400. 01922 629254.

MOBILITY SCOOTER
Quingo Vitess 4 to 8mph. road legal .80hours use..with charger and storage cover. you dont need to be disabled to use it new cost £2500.
£675 ono
01562754127

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

jewellery & watches

WANTED OLD GENTS WRIST WATCHES
Omega, Rolex etc by private collector not dealer.
Working or broken.
Telephone 07979 020256.

2 Leisure Time

bikes

JACKSON-HATELEY CYCLES
www.jacksonhateleycycles.co.uk
GIGANTIC CYCLE CLEARANCE
BOOK YOUR CYCLE NOW FOR EASTER AT SALE PRICE!
All cycles built and guaranteed with a 24 hour repair service
All spares and accessories at discount price
HATELEY'S
Simply the best
Ring Dave on
01902 782344
458 Stafford Road, Oxley, Wolverhampton

car boot sales

BEST SUNDAY BOOTSALE
Only £5 per Car/Van.
7AM START. Cocksparrow Lane, Cannock WS12 4PB
07890 267 041

BIGGEST SATURDAY BOOTSALE
Catering positions available
A454 Rudge Heath between Wolverhampton and Bridgenorth
By Royal Oak pub island WV6 7EE
07890 267 041

CAR BOOT SALES!
Every Sunday
and Bank Holiday Monday
Muckley Corner, Hall Lane, Lichfield, WS14 0BE
Booters £4
6.00am-2pm
07538 842842

BEST WEDNESDAY & SATURDAY BOOTSALE
Now at Ivy House Farm, A461, Springhill, Muckely Corner Lichfield WS14 0BX
07890 267041

CARBOOT & MARKET
Every Sunday 8am - 2pm
Church Eaton, off the A5
Wen Lock Bank, Stafford
ST20 0AB
07979 472 572

caravans / motorhomes

ABBEY AVENTURER 2005
12ft 6ins two berth, beautiful little van, all ready to roll, including television,
£3,950 ono.
01922 415779.

We Want Your Motorhome
Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

BAILEY SENATOR 9000 CARAVAN
1997, twin axle with full awning, air con, excellent condition, only 1 owner.
£3,000.
07769 676331.

BAILEY SENATOR VERMONT
Top of the range caravan.
2002, 2 berth, dry stored.
In very good condition.
No damp, owner retiring.
Lovely van,.
Lots and lots of extras,
£3,650.
Please ring for more details
01902 850362.

CARAVAN FOR SALE, North Wales. Must go, fees paid till 2018. Mint condition. Call 07590 124226.

ONE SOLAR PANEL
100watt
£80.
One Solar Panel
100watt
£60.
4 Leisure batteries.
£160.
Solar Switch
£40.
White Knight Cooker.
£40.
Gas fridge.
£20.
Electric fan
12 volt.
£20.
Petrol rotiavor.
£80.
07780 977801.

IT'S BACK IT'S BACK
MIDLANDS BIGGEST CAR BOOT SALE
SELLERS TURN UP FROM 6AM
THIS SUNDAY AND EVERY SUNDAY
Now at Dark Lane, Featherstone WV10 7HT
Just off main A460.
1minute *from J11 M6*
1minute *J1 M54*
6 am-2 pm
All enquiries **Tel: 07831 192 116**
Or for more information visit www.gocarbootsales.com

REFURBISHED CARAVAN FOR SALE! Central Heating and sleeps 8, £17,995. Deposits from 10%. 12 Month Park, Borth. Call Paul 07960 944721.

STERLING EUROPA 2011
6 berth, c/w auto mover, awning, cover, water butt, hitch and wheel lock, plus loads more extras.
Very good condition.
£12,500 ono.
01889 586396.

3 BEDROOM CARAVAN for sale at Glan y Mor Leisure Park, Sea view and decking for more details please contact 07547721309.

caravans wanted

CARAVAN WANTED. Can collect asap. Caravan wanted.
Call me on 07717 090817.

sports & leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

holidays

caravan holidays

SEA SIDE SOMERSET HOLIDAY caravans to let. Half price OAPs. All caravans overlook the sea 01984 631 781 www.helwellbay.com

TOWYN N.WALES, Caravans to let, small site, good rates, all facilities 01745 334897 or 07766 306230.

caravan parks

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME for sale on 5* park. Golf, fishing, bar & restaurant, pet friendly £24,995 inc. 2017 site fees www.pearllake.co.uk 01568 708 326

NEW & USED STATIC CARAVANS for sale on award winning Country Holiday Park on the Staffordshire / Shropshire border. For details call Tony on 01902 851 302

devon

PAIGNTON
The Kingswinford
April offer
3 Nights B&B - £69 pp
3 nights room only - £59pp
Evening Meals on request
FAMILY ROOMS AVAILABLE
CHILD DISCOUNTS
All rooms en suite
100 yards to beach and pier
Contractors Welcome
01803 558358
www.kingswinfordhotel.com

hotels & guest houses

BARMOUTH SEA FRONT HOTEL Easter bargain breaks. 01341 280 459 www.arbour-hotel.co.uk

north wales

BRIG Y DON HOTEL Llandudno Beach front hotel Book from now till 30th of April for 15% off our best available rate 01492 877319

self catering holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

BUDE CORNWALL 2 BED CHALET On 4* woodland site, pool & free entertainment. May, June, Sept & Oct £140 pw. Whitsun & July £200pw School Holidays £395pw 07974 226 928.

WOODLANDS NEW QUAY, WALES
Pet friendly CHALETS
Short breaks available from £245 per week.
Gilfachreda, New Quay, Ceredigion, Wales, SA45 9ST
Tel: 01545 580 239
www.woodlandsnewquay.co.uk

WOODLANDS NEW QUAY, WALES
Brand new
5 Luxury Lodges.*
Short breaks available **£365**
Gilfachreda, New Quay, Ceredigion, Wales, SA45 9ST
Tel: 01545 580 239
www.woodlandsnewquay.co.uk

travel abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

3 Home & Services

furniture

Furniture not sold, why not donate it?
katharine house hospice enhancing life and living
Reg charity number: 1011712
We can turn your quality used furniture into 1st class care for patients at Katharine House
Call us now on 01785 760715
for details or to arrange a FREE collection

CANE CONSERVATORY SUITE 2 seater sofa, 2 arm chairs. As good as new, cost over £1,000 accepting £99 call 07787 636984 (T)

MODERN SOLID oak dining table, 6 chairs, excellent condition, £100. 01785 257392 after 6pm.

in your garden

SLABS 450mm x 450mm RIVEN FACED, only £1.76 inc. VAT. Ranton Building Supplies: 01543 276006.

items for sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

items wanted

WANTED ANY OLD TOOLS
CASH PAID
Hand tools, anything considered.
01543 452491 / 07539 340307

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID
for antiques, vintage furniture, leather-winged arm chairs & chesterfield setees.
01902 454144 or 0121 5263375

WANTED VINTAGE / COLLECTABLE TOYS
Star Wars / TV / Film Related/ Horror/ Memorabilia
Email or call
rewindcollectables@gmail.com
07969 050421.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

antiques

Louis Taylor
Fine Art Auctioneers & Valuers
Antique valuations first Wednesday of every month, 10am - 2pm
Ancient High House Museum, Stafford, ST16 2JA
01782 638100

loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc, CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials, Sky installation, Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"
Bill - TV Link
For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

specialists at your service

aerials

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"
Steve - AA Digital Aerials
For great business results call
01902 319 191
ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

ANTIQUES WANTED
Furniture, Clocks, China, Medals, Coins, Old wind-up Wrist and Pocket Watches Paintings, Gold/Silver/Costume Jewellery
CHASE ANTIQUES
(Over 40 Years Trading)
01543 572367 07831 818024

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
SATELLITE & CCTV
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857
Checkatrade.com

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST CCTV cameras fitted/tv wallmount, free quote/any area. 07850 330251

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

bathrooms

JR Bathrooms
Over 20 years experience in bathroom & kitchen installations.
TILING/PLASTERING/ FREE QUOTES
20% off throughout March!
07392 379741 or 01543 529648

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including: Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

building supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

carpentry & joinery

CARPENTRY AND JOINERY Kitchens, fitted wardrobes, doors, flooring, staircases and refurbs. 07903 234137 or 0121 4939733.

carpet fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLS supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes call Mark 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

double glazing repairs

S.P.S windows, doors, glass units, locks, hinges, repairs / renewal, guaranteed. Call 07983 704889.

driveways & patios

DIAMOND DRIVES & PATIOS Ltd
Block Paving, Gravelling, Tarmacadam, Tar & Chip, Landscaping
0800 6348692, 07470 402595
www.diamonddrivesltdandpatiosltd.co.uk

external rendering / insulation

RENDER OR INSULATION 20 year insurance backed guarantee. Free Quotes 01902 495 699 www.ecotexcontracts.co.uk

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£695**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

Wednesfield Fencing and Gates. Supply, fit and repairs, 30 years experience. Call 07954 734632.

blinds

MADE-TO-MEASURE
BLINDS SALE
UP TO 50% OFF*
MEASURING & FITTING INCLUDED
BLINDS I CURTAINS I SHUTTERS I CARPETS
TO BOOK A **FREE** HOME APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR LOCAL ADVISOR CALL **0800 916 6563** OR VISIT **hillarys.co.uk**
HILLARYS
*Ts & Cs apply

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them to anyone!"
Michael - Portway Fencing.

For great business results call **01902 319 191**
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

gardening services

OAKTREE TREE SERVICES
Covers all aspects of tree surgery, grass cutting and hedges. Garden clearances, turfing and fencing
07427 060382

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

GARDEN KINGS All Garden work and maintenance, Fencing, Tree cutting, Turfing and much more. Call: Steve for free quote. 07774449900 / 01902 238653.

house clearances

ALL ROUND CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part, also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327**

kitchen fitters

THE KITCHEN FITTER
- Over 20 years' experience in kitchen fitting & project managing.
- Specialist in fitting all retail kitchens.
- Very competitive price.
- Quick quotes over the phone can be given if preferred.
- Supply now available!

CONTACT MATT ON 07881 654 757 or 01543 373 233

painters / decorators

DECORACE Painter & Decorator. Quality work at reasonable prices. OAP discounts. Free quotes: 01902 635258 07876 135302.

LADY PAINTER & DECORATOR City and guild qualified. local, reliable, affordable. 07916 399490.

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07941 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

plastering

MINT PLASTERING
For the very best in plastering and rendering, full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls, stairs and landings from 200
30 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01922 606503 / 07519 694516

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements.Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

plumbing & heating

TAD PLUMBING & HEATING
For all your plumbing needs.
30 years experience
24 HOUR CALL OUT, NO FEE!
Call Trevor on **07791 319397**

K NASH & SON CH, combi boiler & 6 rads £2200. 7 year warranty available 01902 790327/ 07973 721206. www.knashandsonheating.co.uk

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

removals

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS. LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Anything considered. Call on 07867 862227.

MAN & VAN collection and deliveries. Full and part loads, covering all UK. Free quotes: 07515 532098.

roofing

CLIFF NICHOLLS
Roofing & Scaffolding
Rubber Roofing
All Roofing and Scaffolding Work carried out.
35 years experience
Freephone
(0800) 220 - 729

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

showers

SHOWERS
Supplied/Fitted
Replaced/Repaired
Bath to Shower Conversions
Call James for a FREE quote.
07908 052470 / 01902 758494

upholstery

MR B'S UPHOLSTERY
RE- UPHOLSTERING OF SOFA'S, DINING FURNITURE, CARAVANS, CAR RETRIMS AND MORE.
www.mrbsupholstery.co.uk
01543 500677 07738 851601

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BABY BUDGIE new cage with stand, toys and food, £40. 07716 847443.

6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BLOXWICH Bedsit in secure building, own kitchen / bathroom, £260pcm plus bills. Deposit / reference required. No DSS. Age restriction applies. 07738 103602.

PARKSIDE, STAFFORD Bungalow, 2-Bed Semi. Central heating, front & rear gardens, off road parking £625. 07880 720609.

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL
01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME! For Your House CASH
BLACK COUNTRY HOMES
You agree the price, we buy the house...
• NO AGENTS FEES • COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
• FREE SOLICITORS • ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
0800 999 999 6
01384 500 500
30 yrs
www.black-countryhomes.co.uk * subject to terms

Wolverhampton properties
CASH NOW FOR YOUR HOUSE
UP TO **£25,000** We can buy your house in **2 days**
CASH ADVANCE NOW (in 24hrs)
• Free Solicitors • No Fees • Any House • Any Condition
0800 389 6788
01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week Terms applicable

I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE!
I pay 100% of purchase price
Call now for the best price on your house
GUARANTEED
■ Guaranteed offer* ■ Any condition ■ Free solicitors ■ No fees* *Terms apply
24 hours Free phone or landline **0800 783 2822** **01384 226086**
Dewmark Homes

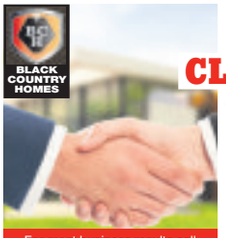
pink run by women **sell quick**
• No Fees* • Any property • Any condition • Free confidential service
• Any area* • Repossessions stopped • Deceased estates
Call free 24 hours to terms
0800 044 8109 **01922 689023**

WE BUY ANY HOUSE CASH
CALL US FREE 24 Hours/ 7days
0800 246 1047
CASH ADVANCE WITHIN 24 HOURS
WE OFFER **£20,000** CASH ADVANCE
NO Fees & FREE Solicitors We Buy Any Area & Any Condition
www.ukfastsale.co.uk

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

Need to sell your home fast?
We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit ... you can clear your debts and make a fresh start
Purchase Agreed Within **7 DAYS**
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY
MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
01543 241 239
*Terms and Conditions apply
OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED
"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer
For great business results call **01902 319 191**
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star



CHOOSE CLASSIFIED
"We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates."
Black Country Homes
For great business results call **01902 319 191**
ClassifiedAds Brought to you by Express & Star

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY JOBSDAY
Every Thursday our special jobs section is packed with the week's latest vacancies.
Make sure you get your copy - it might be just what you've been waiting for.
jobs.expressandstar.com

7 Jobs

office & secretarial

FULL TIME OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Medicare Ltd based in **Norton Canes**
requires Office Administrator to work in a busy office environment. Candidate must be computer literate, have good interpersonal skills and ability to multi-task under own initiative.
Rate of pay £8.00 per hour.
Please apply with CV to **jayne@medicareltd.co.uk** or call **01543 495788.**

part time - general

ROSEMARY LODGE RESIDENTIAL HOME
LICHFIELD
Requires the following staff:
Experienced Care Assistant
minimum Level 2 NVQ/QCF required
29 hrs per week, inc weekends on a rota basis
We are a family run home and offer good rates of pay and excellent working conditions
Interested?
Please call Jane or Shirley on 01543 415223

full time - general

Approved Design
Helping you achieve compliance
Part of the Stevens Group

Building Control Consultants & Site Surveyors
for both our Midlands Commercial and Residential Teams
Are you looking for an exciting new challenge where your enterprise and endeavour will be rewarded?
Approved Design Consultancy is a leading Corporate Approved Inspector.
We continue to provide a professional independent high quality Building Regulation consultancy service.
We are currently recruiting for highly motivated experienced Building Control Consultant and Site Surveyors to join our extremely busy Cannock office.
The posts are an excellent opportunity for qualified or part qualified persons to enhance their career in providing a high level of service to our expanding client base of both residential and commercial clients.
If you want to be part of a highly successful company please apply in writing or email detailing your experiences and what you would bring to Approved Design.
Applications to Matthew Nock, Approved Design Consultancy Ltd, 11 Morston Court, Kingswood, Lakeside, Cannock, WS11 8JB or email to info@approveddesign.co.uk
Closing Date Friday 12th May 2017

Due to continued expansion we are recruiting at our Cannock site for the following positions
GOODFISH
- **Production Automation Design Engineer**
  We're looking for a production automation design engineer to conceive, develop, source, project manage and oversee the installation and commissioning of automation cells in our busy injection moulding facilities in the West and East Midlands.
- **Quality Inspector**
  As a quality inspector you will approve in-process production by confirming specifications; conducting visual and measurement tests; communicating required adjustments to your line manager.
- **Tool Room Readers**
  We are looking for someone to not only lead a group of highly skilled and experienced toolmakers but also to draw up a strategy and deliver a plan to future-proof our toolmaking skills and capabilities, so that we remain at the forefront of the industry in technical terms, with a highly competitive value proposition.
- **Wire EDM-Programmer-Operator**
  We're looking to hire a Wire Eroder to join our busy toolroom that specialises in precision components supplied to short lead-times, primarily for the automotive industry.

For more information please visit the Careers page of our website: www.goodfishltd.com
ONLY GRAFTERS NEED APPLY!

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

MUST BE SEEN
HYUNDAI i10 COMFORT
39,495 miles, 59 plate.
Very good condition.
£30 a year tax.
Offers.
Telephone 0121 553 5926.

EXCELLENT CONDITION
NISSAN QASHQAI
Diesel, red, November 61, 40,000 miles, MoT to April 2018.
£7,950
01922 325249 or 07970 659226.

cars under £1500

BARGAIN

CITROEN C5

1.8, dk red, 04 regn, 12 months Mot, low mileage.
New tyres and battery.
£600ono.
01922 412863 / 07999 708349.

ESTATE

FORD FOCUS 1.8TDi ESTATE

53 reg, 12 months MoT,
£450.
07875 053992.

BARGAIN

FORD FOCUS ZETEC

5dr petrol, hatchback, 1600cc, silver, 53 reg., MoT December 2017, good condition.
£250
07519 350414.

ECONOMICAL

FORD KA

Blue, 3 door hatchback, 2003, 1.3cc, 60mpg, MoT July 2017, pas.
Very economical.
Very reliable, driven daily.
Very good condition.
Bargain £370 ono.
07954 091911.

IMMACULATE

VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 ACTIVE

5dr, 2006 reg, petrol, one owner, 78,000 miles, ten months MoT, 11 stamp full service history, last service at 77,400, air con, alloys, radio/CD, electric windows, alarmed, pas, two keys.
Immaculate condition, must be seen.
£1,495.
07486 666083.

VW LUPO

999cc, Reliable, in very good condition. Full MoT, 38,000 miles.
£650
07543 824815.

GOOD RUNNER

VW POLO

1.2 5dr hatch, 2003, metallic Silver, 86,000 genuine miles from new, alloys, A/C, 6 months MoT
£695.
SOLD

MUST BE SEEN

VW POLO

3dr hatch, 1.2, silver, 68,000 miles, 6 months MoT, excellent condition throughout.
£1,000 ono.
07914 407821.

commercial vehicles

BARGAIN VANS small - large £995-£5995 inc vat 12mth MoT & service 01902 451877 / 07944 640999

spares & accessories

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848469.

mot's

MOTs ONLY £24.50
formula one autocentres
CANNOCK WS11 0BN
01543 50 20 00
F1AUTOCENTRES.COM

motorbikes

ALL BIKES WANTED Anything considered. Pristine, non runners, barn finds, unfinished projects Highways 07971 793661 or 01902 773608.

Highway motorcycles

WANTED Clean Used Bikes MOT While-U-Wait No Re Test Fee

APRIL SPECIAL
** MOT £29.65**
OIL & OIL FILTER CHANGE FROM £29.99
QUICK FIT TYRES
**QUICK FIT CHAIN & SPROCKETS **
PHONE FOR BEST PRICES

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KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426823**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

JANET tall beautiful brunette, slim 12, separated, enjoys life, no hang-ups, wanting quality time, friendship and possible romance with similar guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426807**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426769**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375**

SUE, 46, confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426757**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365**

JOY happily married, bi curious, blonde hair, blue eyes, big boobs, seeks someone to join in a bit of bedroom fun! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426845**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979**

ANNE blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks males for no strings adult fun! Call and leave a number for me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426843**

JASMINE, 34yrs, non smoking first time dater! Easy going, attractive and hard working. Due to work commitments I'm looking for a no strings companion any age. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. **Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box 426201**

CARIBBEAN woman, 57 years young, medium build, WLTM a nice man, 55-63, for days out socialising, romance, non smoker. **Text only. Mailbox: 5774104**

HARRIETT 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. **Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205**

SARAH, 38, nice looking blue-eyed slim brunette, WLTM similar lonely male for fun times hopefully leading to LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426709**

PIA, Asian lady, 57yrs, very caring and a little subservient and quiet. I am a good cook and loyal friend. Pls text me if you are kind man 55+ **Text Only. Mailbox 4013378**

CHRIS, 40, attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426301**

NATALIA, black beauty! I am late 50s but still fit with a good figure and lovely skin and eyes. I would like to meet a nice white gentleman, older than myself for chats, maybe more. **Text Only. Mailbox 4107799**

CATHY, 40s, slim attractive lady with an open-minded attitude to life, and WLTM a man of any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426579**

SUSAN, 41, sophisticated, confident, discreet, attractive female seeking professional male over 38 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426557**

KATHERINE 38, attractive, single, very lonely and looking for love, fun and male companionship. pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426595**

KAREN, 46, witty female who loves to laugh, WLTM similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426335**

BROWN eyed female, 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out WLTM male 67-74 for LTR. **Text only. Mailbox: 5806373**

LOUISE, 40s, youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into my life. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426321**

CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426079**

JAN, 46, lonely divorced romantic female, brown hair, green eyes, curvy feminine figure, employed, OHAC, WLTM attentive male for TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426255**

PAM, 40, cuddly feminine young looking female, OHAC, financially secure, looking for fun times without complications with likeminded male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426253**

FARMERS daughter, 69, single, likes heavy horses, animals, meals out, GSOH, friendship only, 65-75. **Text only. Mailbox: 5799589**

KAREN, 52, 5ft5, short browny/blond hair, green eyes, medium build, GSOH, loving, caring and kind, likes to do lots of things, likes a laugh, WLTM similar gent, hope to hear from you soon! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425917**

GENTS, please call me if you are looking to meet a kind sincere lady for nights at the theatre, socialising etc. You can call or text me. I promise to reply, I'm very genuine. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426345**

JACKIE is 54yrs and an attractive easygoing brunette, she's hoping to meet a similar minded chap for some fun, dates, chats, text or call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426343**

ATTRACTIVE blonde lady, 54yrs, loyal, romantic and solvent hoping to meet a gent with GSOH for romance, sensual times and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426341**

KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTM male for mutual companionship without ties. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425913**

SUE, 38, petite blonde, curvy size 8, outgoing, cultured, enjoys cosy night cuddles, seeking discreet loving male to make me feel special. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426219**

EILEEN mid 60s seeks gent 50s-60s for friendship, possibly much more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425341**

SARA, 43, educated independent attractive female, nervous about dating through advertising, so pls doesn't disappoint me by not replying. I promise I wont disappoint you! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426161**

JANINE 40yrs, very cute petite artistic female who has a real passion for life, WLTM similarly passionate male for tactile LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426125**

JANE, attractive and young looking 60 something lady, active, outgoing with interesting personality, hoping to meet a kind gent for occasional meetings. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425931**

BROWN eyed Brummie female, 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTM male 67-74 for LTR. **Text only. Mailbox: 5780679**

KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTM male for mutual companionship without ties. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425913**

SUE 38yrs enjoys most things, meals in/out, easygoing, broadminded, passionate, slightly feisty, looking for adult fun, call me if you're interested in spicing things up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425587**

DONNA naughty 40's, pretty, loves nights in, gym, theatre, seeks someone to make me laugh, give lots of cuddles and go on fun dates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425867**

Single Men

32 year old male looking for a nice lady for fun, maybe more. **Text only. Mailbox: 5831443**

GENT 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, keep fit, karaoke, seeks soul mate for fun times. N Shropshire. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408411**

YOUNG 60 West Midlands male, 5ft 8ins, grey hair, slim to medium build, sexy Scorpio, GSOH, broadminded, seeking an honest sexy lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426621**

MALE N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416817**

CARING male, 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997**

EASYGOING male, 63, genuine, N/S seeks female 50-70 for friendship and romance. Looks unimportant. Likes occasional drink, eating in/out, cinema and driving. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418893**

SINGLE male, n/s, likes music, films, driving, nights in, dining out, trips, WLTM lady, 50-70, looks unimportant, for friendship and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424927**

GENTLEMAN wishes to meet nice lady 45-60, West Midlands area. My interests are meals out, daytrips, music and reading. **Text only. Mailbox: 5817771**

GENUINE Stoke male 50s, friendly and easygoing, enjoys weekends away, seeks slim attractive female 35 to 50 for friendship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5817202**

MARK, single, 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, lots of interests, sport, music, cinema, long walks, eating out, looking to meet that special lady. If that sounds like you please get in touch! **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426461**

CHRISTIAN, 57, 6ft, dark, likes walking, nice meals and socialising, looking for discreet times with a similar fun lady. If you are interested please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425947**

I enjoy the great outdoors with the dog, 36 years old, mature with a caring nature looking for a female age 28-48 for friendship, possible relationship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5803493**

CARING male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, dark hair, honest, loving, down to earth, likes sport, music, cinema, meals out, seeking special lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409803**

IAN, 5ft6, looking for somebody, 18-60, for general good fun times, days out, nights out, meals, sightseeing and visiting various parts of the country. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426437**

MALE 45 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, slim, likes sports, cinema, meals out, seeking loving, caring female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406737**

YOUNG 60, West Midlands male, 5ft8, grey hair, wear specs, GSOH, sexy Scorpion, broad minded, slim to medium build, varied interests, seeking a genuine, honest, sexy lady for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426137**

40 year old Hungarian male, 5ft8, slim, dark blond hair, blue eyes, WLTM a lady 30-45 to spend some time together for friendship. **Text only. Mailbox: 5800702**

WILLIAM, young 56, would like some adult fun with a sexy lady, any age, wants and good time and discreet fun. **Text only. Mailbox: 5321154**

MALE, 60s, 5ft10, slim build, looking to meet female, for a mature adult relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426053**

MALE, 58, works in agriculture, lives in North Shropshire area, likes the countryside, days at the coast even in the winter, meals out, looking for loving, caring, country girl, 50s-60s. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426037**

SINGLE male, 31 years old, brown eyes, black hair, 6ft, seeks single slim athletic build lady similar age for fun, hopefully more. **Text only. Mailbox: 4765584**

JAY, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303**

STEVE, 59, sincere and genuine, likes pub meals, country walks and cinema, seeks Chinese, Tia, Black, Asian or Italian lady, looks unimportant but personality is, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425831**

I am looking for a lady friend to enjoy my retirement with. I enjoy going out for meals and would like some company. **Text only. Mailbox: 5777872**

ADVENTUROUS 36-year-old male, slim, dark hair, has many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235**

MARRIED businessman, mid fifties, seeks lady for discreet adult fun. Any age/looks unimportant. **Text only. Mailbox: 5534019**

IRISH male, 62, 5ft 9ins, GSOH, independent, seeks genuine female for friendship initially. Birmingham area. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403623**

MALE, 60, tall and slim, WLTM older female of larger build, any age, any status, for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425807**

TALL male, 58, seeks larger woman, any age, for discreet fun, married or single. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425643**

GENUINE male, 37, friendly and easygoing, enjoys sport and keep fit, WLTM genuine female 25-45, for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420253**

TALL, dark, attractive male, 57, WLTM an attractive female for discreet daytime fun, 25-50. Can travel. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425759**

ATTRACTIVE male, 58, seeks adventurous female, 50-70, for close fun. Any status or size. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425535**

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Serial winner Dan wards off rival to make history

Plate winner Dan Ward with league chairman Derek Evans

Secretaries handicap winner Mark Gilbert (Sedgley WMC) with trophy

DANIEL WARD has become the most decorated player in the history of the Staffs and West Midlands Snooker League.

The Sedgley Ex-Service potter added another piece of silverware to his sizeable haul by claiming the Plate Competition.

Ward rolled in breaks of 46 and 44 on his way to a 3-1 success against Chris Ward (Stafford Institute).

It was his first Plate success having previously won the Individual Championship, Individual Handicap, Junior Championship, Pairs Medley, Foursomes, 3x2 Handicap and the Division One title.

Mark Gilbert (Sedgley WMC) also had cause for celebration after lifting the Secretaries Handicap title.

Gilbert, the league's general secretary, beat Neil Beckley (Hotshots) by a comfortable aggregate score of 189-105 despite a 48 break from Beckley.

There was a team triumph for The Paul Hunter Foundation in the Consolation Cup final.

The Division Four side overcame Division Six outfit Pennfields D 546-512 to claim the trophy for the second time having won it in 2015.

Resistance

Connor Showell, Nathan Edwards, Jodie Humphries and Tom Hurst all won for the Foundation with Bill Bird the only Pennfields player to offer any resistance.

Hotshots are in pole position to win the race for Division One glory.

The championship battle turned in Hotshots' favour after they beat Stafford Institute A4-1 away from home while title rivals Sedgley Ex-Service and Brandhall Labour both lost.

Callum Downing (40), Roy Stokes, Milan Krstanovic and Jamie Brown secured the win for Hotshots which took them a step nearer to their first title.

Sedgley Ex-Service A saw their challenge go up in smoke when they were crushed 5-0 by Shifnal A.

Matt Davies rolled in a fine break of 95 for the Shropshire side with Chris Jones, Shaun Harris (47), Ian Duffy and Paul Lloyd (59) also winning.

Reigning champions Brandhall Labour A's hopes of landing a sixth straight title took a huge hit when they went down to a shock 3-2 reverse at home to Cannock Cons A. Riley Parsons, Mick Faulkner (50) and Dave Coborn were on target for Cons.

Karl Ashmore (79) and Alan Hooper responded for Labour, who are now three points behind Hotshots.

Division Two leaders Willenhall Liberal B maintained their two-point lead going into the final week of the season with a 5-0 win against Pennfields B. Scott Tapper (38), Simon Gough, Lee Bannister, Andy Price and Lee Thomson secured the whitewash.

Second-placed Sedgley WMC B who also whitewashed their opponents Bilston BC A 5-0 thanks to Steve Spicer, Mo Rucsaal (38), Shaf Hussain, Stuart Barker and Mark Gilbert.

Wolverhampton Electric A have already secured the Division Three titles but there are no fewer than six clubs still in with a chance of securing one of the two remaining promotion places.

Wednesfield RBL A are now in second place after a hard-fought 3-2 away victory at struggling Fordhouses CC A.

Amery made it three titles on the spin as they clinched the Division Four crown despite losing 3-2 to promotion hopefuls Bushbury Grid A.

Essington WMC A confirmed their instant return to Division Three with a 4-1 win at Forty Four Club C. Division Five leaders Pennfields C sealed promotion but will have to wait another week to clinch the title after they suffered a heavy 4-1 home defeat to promotion contenders Bushbury Grid B.

Bushbury Grid C saw their lead at the top of Division Six cut to one point despite defeating promotion candidates Forty Four Club B.

Liam Boucher, Darren Shirley and Paul Wakeman, in the decider, saw Bushbury home after Andrew Crowther and Sean Rowley had put Forty Four 2-0 up.

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Nick Elwell

Another piece of silverware is added to Mark's sizeable haul by claiming the Plate Competition

Results – Division 1: Brandhall Lab A 2 Cannock Cons A 3; Pennfields A 4 Lea Hall 1; Sedgley WMC A 4 Baggeridge Soc 1; Shifnal WM A 5 Sedgley Ex Service A 0; Stafford Inst A 1 Hotshots SC 4; Wednesfield Cons A 3 Brandhall Lab B 2; Woodfield Soc A 3 Landywood SC A 2.

Division 2: Bilston BC A 0 Sedgley WMC B 5; Golden Cue B 1 Golden Cue A 4; Golden Cue D 2 Shifnal WM B 3; Goodyear A 2 Sedgley WMC C 3; Landywood SC B 4 Woodfield Soc B 1; Smethwick Lab 2 Kingswinford SC 3; Golden Cue C 2 Stafford Inst B 3; Willenhall Lib B 5 Pennfields B 0.

Division 3: Bilston S & S A 2 Wednesfield Cons C 3; British Rail A 1 Wednesfield Cons B 4; Cannock Cons B 2 Goodyear B 3; Fordhouses CC A 2 Wednesfield RBL A 3; Sedgley Ex Service B 2 Bilston BC B 3; Willenhall Lib A 3 Woodfield Soc C 2; W'ton Electric A 4 W'ton Electric B 1; Sedgley Ex Service C 3 Landywood SC D 2.

Division 4: Blymhill 3 Sedgley Ex Service D 2; Bushbury Grid A 3 Amery 2; Coseley Ex Service 4 Bilston S & S B 1; Shepwell Green A 1 British Rail B 4; Codsall Firs B 4 Codsall Firs A 1; Forty Four Club C 1 Essington WMC A 4; Golden Cue F 2 Stafford Cons 3; W'ton Electric C 1 P.Hunter Foundation (Cue E) 4.

Division 5: Codsall Firs C 1 Golden Cue J 4; Essington WMC B 3 Woodfield Soc E 2; Woodfield Soc D 3 Bentley Moor 2; Golden Cue H 3 W'ton Electric D 2; JD's SC 3 Darlaston Cons A 2; Landywood SC C 3 Triangle SC 2; Pennfields C 1 Bushbury Grid B 4; Sedgley WMC D 3 Golden Cue G 2.

Division 6: Darlaston Cons B 3 RAFA B 2; Forty Four Club B 2 Bushbury Grid C 3; The Royal 1 Fordhouses CC B 4; Wednesfield RBL B 3 Fordhouses CC C 2; Essington WMC C 2 Pennfields D 3; Fordhouses CC D 0 Bilston S & S C 5; Wednesfield Cons D 2 British Rail C 3; Woodfield Soc F 1 Golden Cue K 4.

Consolation Cup: Pennfields D 512 P.Hunter Foundation (Cue E) 546 (Handicaps - Pennfields D 287, P Hunter Foundation (Cue E) 231).

Individual Plate: Daniel Ward 3 Chris Ward 1.

Secretaries Handicap: N Beckley 105 Mark Gilbert 189 (Handicaps - Beckley 7, Gilbert 21).

It's full speed ahead as Shelley excels

THERE was plenty for racing fans to get excited about away from the British Superbikes over the weekend as the Darley Moor Club Championship season got under way.

Burtwood's Lloyd Shelley recorded a perfect four wins from four starts, with three fastest laps, to get his title defences off to the perfect start.

But the victories did come easy as, despite leading across the line after each of the six laps during the opening Formula 600 race, rival Steven Proctor was no more than half a second behind throughout.

The Staffordshire star, however, enjoyed an easier time in both Sound of Thunder races – another title he is defending – taking victories from Jamie Medhurst by 11 and eight seconds respectively.

Stuart Hall, from Rugeley, fared well in the Mini Sound of Thunder class – which is raced alongside the Sound of Thunder bikes – taking the runner-up spot in each race, finishing an impressive eighth and ninth overall.

Dudley's Mark Cockerton sits second in the Classic 350 series table after the opening round, while Willenhall's McAuley Longmore is third in the Formula 125 class.

Reece races into top spot in new duathlon

BLACK Country Triathletes made the most of the good weather as the season got well under way. One of BCT's junior athletes, Reece Ashfield aged 17, competed against adults in a new Formula 5 Duathlon at the National Bowl, Milton Keynes. He came home in first place overall in a time of 47:40.

Athletes took podium places in several age categories in races in Hereford and Halewowen. Rob Kennard & Scott Palmer raced in the Hereford Duathlon, Kennard finishing 21st overall and 2nd in the age group 50 category in the standard distance and Palmer finishing fifth and first in his age group (male senior) in the sprint distance.

A number of BCT athletes competed in one of the first triathlons of the year at Halesowen Sprint Tri consisting of a 400m swim, 20km bike and a 5km run. Nick Blackman was first home for the club finishing sixth overall and fourth in the Vet 40 category in a time of 1:15:20.

The only female racing for the club was Stacey Skitt who had a fantastic come back race finishing in 1:23:27 placing her second female overall and first senior female. Chris Pedley and Gary Hickman brought home first and second in the male Vet 60 age group. In the senior male age group Thomas Dauncey finished 12th overall.

FA group's goal is to help out hospice

THE Staffordshire FA has announced a charity of the year partnership with The Donna Louise Children's Hospice.

Throughout the next year, the FA group will be working with the hospice to raise funds and awareness of the services offered to children and young adults.

The Donna Louise provides a wide range of vital services for children and young adults with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions, and their families.

Each year the charity must raise at least £3 million, most of which comes from fundraising and donations, to continue to offer its services.

Adam Evans, chief executive officer of the charity, based in Stoke-on-Trent, said, "We are delighted that The Staffordshire FA has been able to secure a charity partnership with The Donna Louise.

A spokesman for Staffordshire FA said: "It is fantastic that we are in a position to provide support and exposure to the hospice and highlight the amazing service that they provide for families throughout Staffordshire and the surrounding area."

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165.70-13	£30	195.65-15	£37	195.50-15	£35	225.45-17	£40
165.70-14	£34	185.60-14	£36	195.45-15	£40	205.50-17	£44
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Sport

Dan's the man to make snooker history

Page 67

Wolves and Hednesford in link-up

HEDNESFORD Town FC have joined with Wolverhampton Wanderers to launch a new football academy.

The Pitmen will be working with the Championship side from September, to produce and develop local footballing talent. The academy will be based at Keys Park.

Hednesford Town General Manager Carl Cooper said: "I am really excited about the academy coming to Keys Park and with the strong link we will gain with Wolverhampton Wanderers.

"We already host Wolves Women matches here at the club and this will see more of a partnership developing between the two clubs.

"Also, this will give us a chance to grow our own youth development locally with coaches and managers taking more of an involvement with the whole set up."

The academy will also give the club the chance for students from the Hednesford and Cannock area to attend an academy set up at Keys Park.

First team manager Gary Birch said: "I'm very excited at the prospect of having our very own academy based here at Keys Park. The academy will give students and budding young footballers the opportunity to gain valuable football experience and develop their football expertise over a period of two years. The course also offers the students to further their education with BTEC Sports Studies.

The academy will build on the success of the U19 academy, which has been run in conjunction with the BMET College, over the last 12 months – helping to provide the club with a number of players during the course of the current season.

For more details contact carlcooper@hednesfordtownfc.com or visit www.wearescl.co.uk/hednesford-town.

Purrfect finish to season as Cougars top their league

A WOMEN'S team from south Staffordshire has won an inaugural football league.

Wyrley Cougars have been named champions of the Staffordshire Over 30s Women's League with two games to go before the end of the season.

The team, from Great Wyrley, are now looking for more players to join their ranks, with the aim of setting up at least one more team.

The side, part of Wyrley Juniors FC, was launched in February 2015 when just three women turned up to the first ladies' veterans training.

Club bosses persevered, and a coach/manager was appointed.

Gradually more women were recruited and a team was created, with some players travelling from as far away as Coventry to take part. As a result of the club's efforts to set up a league, other clubs followed their example and in September last year the league was launched.

The team will be one of 20 girls and ladies teams at the club

For more information, contact club chairman Keith Hardy on 07836 202764.

If only – author's alternative view

Saddlers fan and Author Simon Turner with his book

A LONG-suffering Walsall fan has compiled an alternative history of football which looks at how events might have been.

If Only: An Alternative History of the Beautiful Game turns the sport on its head and imagines Scotland winning the first-ever World Cup, Derby County as champions of Europe and 1966 isn't the only year that England win anything.

The book, penned by Simon Turner of Lichfield, makes an enthralling journey along the paths that fate forgot. Featuring breathless depictions of the greatest games never played, it will delight the dreamer in every football fan. The author reveals that as a Saddlers supporter, he has witnessed countless 'if only' moments over the years

It is often tempting to believe in the grand sweep of history; to conclude that the triumphs of football's greatest teams were simply inevitable. But he argues that behind all those triumphs lie the countless disappointments of teams that were denied glory by a cruel bounce, the width of a crossbar or a dubious refereeing decision.

Published by Pitch Publishing, If Only is available for £9.99.

Football

ANOTHER DERBY LOSS FOR PITMEN

Hednesford Town 0 Stafford Rangers 2

STAFFORD RANGERS claimed local bragging rights for the third time this season by comfortably overcoming Hednesford at Keys Park on Monday.

After defeating the Pitmen in the FA Trophy in November, Stafford added a second victory on Boxing Day before claiming the hat-trick in Hednesford's last home game of the season.

Things could have been very different though, had Tony Clarke's looping header for Hednesford not been cleared off the line in the third minute.

In a lively opening, both teams struggled to really test either goalkeeper despite both forcing a number of corners and free-kicks.

Stafford went ahead in the 42nd minute. A throw-in found its way to midfielder Jack Sherratt and he had time to control the ball before curling it into the net via the woodwork.

Rangers almost added a second in first-half stoppage time when Ben Haseley was denied by a good tackle from Lewis Wright.

Throw

After Hednesford's Danny Glover saw a shot deflected wide early in the second half, Stafford doubled their lead on 51 minutes.

Another throw into the box wasn't dealt with and Izak Reid had time to bring the ball down and fire low into the corner. Hednesford won a number of set-pieces but they were unable to test Adam Whitehouse in the Rangers goal.

Marine 3 Hednesford Town 0

Hednesford fell to a disappointing defeat against a Marine side that were looking to earn three points in order to secure their Evo-Stik Premier Division place for another season.

The visitors fell behind in the seventh minute when a free-kick into the Town box was nodded down to Danny Mitchley and he was able to fire home past Lloyd Ransome.

Just when it looked like Hednesford might force a final push in search of an equaliser the home side sprang to life to add a second. A low shot from Luke Wall deceived Ransome and found the back of the net.

Marine extended their lead in the last minute of normal time when Matty Hamilton turned the ball past Blake Thompson and fired home.

Girls' team pipped at the post

Five Ways girls' football team, who finished as runners-up in the Danone Cup

TEACHERS at a Cannock school have expressed their pride after football-mad girls reached the last four of the Midlands regional championships.

Pupils from Five Way Primary, in Heath Hayes, had already progressed through the Cannock area competition before being crowned county champions at the FA headquarters at St George's Park, Staffordshire.

The 10 and 11-year-olds went on to represent the county in the regional finals of the Danone Cup at Nottingham University, winning their first three games and drawing their next two meaning they made the semi-finals.

However, they were knocked out thanks to a wonder goal by eventual Midlands regional champions St George's Junior School, from Shropshire. Teacher Iain Redpath described the occasion as "one of the greatest days in the history of sporting achievement at Five Ways Primary School".

He added: "Having given it absolutely everything, we lost 1-0 to the eventual winners, St. George's Junior School from Shropshire.

"It was a truly inspirational, inspiring day.

"That was down to the nine girls who represented Five Ways Primary School, the enthusiastic and heartfelt support of parents and family, and the desire and commitment of the managerial triumvirate."

Back-to-back defeats for Scholars

Chasetown 1
Stocksbridge Park Steels 2

ALL the goals came in the first half as Chasetown suffered an Easter Monday defeat.

Play-off-chasing Stocksbridge had a dream start with a goal inside the first two minutes as Harrison Biggins's free-kick curled beyond the wall and past Curtis Pond. Biggins made it 2-0 in the fifth minute, getting on the end of a cross to divert the ball beyond Pond into the far corner.

Leading goalscorer Jack Langston was a whisker away from getting a goal back with a fierce drive which was deflected inches over the bar by the legs of keeper David Reay.

Chasetown were handed a lifeline five minutes before the break following a mazy run from Liam Holt which saw him pushed to the ground and Langston converted the penalty sending Reay the wrong way.

After the interval the Scholars created three chances in quick succession. The visitors defended resolutely though and held out for three vital points.

Shaw Lane 2 Chasetown 0

Two second-half goals condemned Chasetown to defeat at leaders Shaw Lane on Saturday.

The title-chasing home side offered little in the first half, with the two best chances falling to Scholars striker Mitch Piggon.

But four minutes into the second half, Shaw Lane took the lead against the run of play when Kieron Lugsden nipped in and diverted the ball past Curtis Pond.

The hosts were awarded a penalty for a raised foot but Gavin Allott's spot-kick was superbly saved by Pond.

Shaw Lane doubled their lead in the final minute when Alex Byrne raced onto a ball over the top and fired past Pond.

Early goals sees off relegation worries

Littleton 0 Heath Hayes 1
Midland League Division 1

HAYES came away from Evesham with all three points thanks to a victory that was far more comfortable than the scoreline suggests.

The goal came in the fourth minute after Kyle Minto and Korry Burke combined well down the right and Minto's precise cross was headed home at the far post by Luke Dellaney.

Hayes keeper Mark Wiggin never had a serious save to make all the game.

All in all this was a solid performance which banishes any lingering doubts of relegation.

★★★

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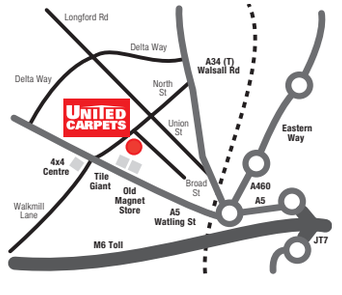

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